A NEW BOOKE
Of good Husbandry,
very pleasaunt, and of great profite both for Gentlemen and Yomen:

Conteining,

The Order and maner of making of Fish-pondes, with the breeding, preseruing, and multiplying of the Carpe, Tench, Pike, and Troute, and diuerse kindes of other Fresh-fish.

Written in Latine by *Ianus Dubranius*, and translated into English at the speciall request of *George Churchey*, fellow of Lions Inne, the 9. of Februarie. 1599.

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TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR EDMONDE ANDERSON KNIGHT, Lord chiefe Iuſtice of the common Plees.

THE vertuous progenie (right Honorable) from whence you are deſcended, the profound Learning and ſound experience wherewith you are indued, and the Honorable place vnto the which Almightie God long ſithence hath called you, annexed with ſinguler giftes, and many other very excellent beneſites, wherewith God and Nature hath adorned you, framing in your perſon a full perfection of true Honours, and in your lyfe, a iuſt merite of vertuous reputation (it can not be otherwiſe, but that the ſame part of Honorable bountie, which yeeldeth compaſſion to the poore diſtreſſed, and gratiouſly accepteth the well meaning of moſt duetifull ſeruice) hath in your Noble hart his due place and priuiledge. May it therefore pleaſe your good

Lordſhip, with pardon and patience, to heare and conſider the ſeruiceable good will, and moſt duetifull well meaning of your poore Orator, who lately vpon ſome buſineſſe of his Clients, wayted on your L. at your houſe at Harfielde: where after very fauourable intertainement many wayes had from you, heard ſome ſpeaches of your L. new, fayre, and goodly Orchardes, Gardens, Hop-yardes, and Fiſh-pondes; and likewiſe of your great delight and ſpeciall care in the choyce of your Trees, Fruites, Flowers, and Hoppes; and of your ſending farre for ſkilfull workemen to manure, mende, redreſſe, and furniſh the ſame: he deſired greatly to take a view thereof, perceiuing thereby the ſame report to be true. After his returne home, he called to minde ſome few ſimple and abrupt collections of his owne in times paſt, concerning many noble, and late, auncient, learned, and famous perſons, that practiſed and penned diuerſe Treatiſes of the ſecrets and excellent ſkill in Planting, Graffing, Sowing, and Setting; with the ſecret commodities in making of Fiſh-pondes, and furniſhing the ſame; and alſo the commoditie of Perrie and Cider, and the nature thereof for lacke of Wines: who manifeſted how commendable and commodious it is in a Common-wealth: (which he would wiſh were more generally practiſed, as it doth ſomewhat in ſundry places increaſe) and will much more, when as your L. and ſuch other worthy men, doe fauour and further the ſame. All which Notes and Collections, (preſuming on your accuſtomed clemencie) I doe meane to preſent vnto your L. view, and good conſideration, vnder the protection of your Honorable fauour: not altogether of his owne doinges, nor tranſlations out of other Languages, but ſome thinges added by him (pertayning thereto)

vnto) hoping that you will accept the same according to the most ductifull good meaning of your poore Orator, which he much desireth, being the very speciall Marke he aymeth at. But least he might bee, or seeme tedious, or ouer long detaine your L. from your waightie affayres in Law and Iudgement (which ought first to be done, and yet in his simple opinion, this not left vndone) doth humbly craue your accustomed fauour herein, and doth vnfaignedly vow hereafter to redouble his very hartie prayers vnto the Almightie God, for the most happie and heauenly continuance of your L. with your vertuous and best beloued, my good Lady, and the rest of yours, in perfect felicitie for euer and euer.

Your Lordships in all ductie,

George Churchey.

THE BOOKES REQVEST.

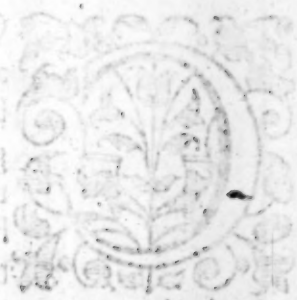
READE ouer, then Iudge,
Condemne not before:
VVith iudgment iuſt reiect,
Or els imbrace my lore.
Mine Authour vvas the firſt,
And laſt, as I ſuppoſe,
That euer did aſſay
Theſe ſecrets to diſcloſe,
If ought be vvrought avvry,
And ſeeme to thee vnſounde,
VVith penne I pray amende,
And not vvith tongue confounde.

FINIS.

To the Reader.

COurteous and gentle Reader, animated with the warrantiſe of ſome men both learned and of good accompt, to whom I committed the view hereof, which I haue kept long time to my ſelfe, being Engliſhed, I was wiſhed to make the ſame more publikely knowen by impreſſion, and the rather, for that it is ſo neceſſarie for a Common-wealth, becauſe it concernes Huſbandrie: vpon whoſe report, and other perſwaſions, I was the more willing to let it goe to the Preſſe: Therefore this worke, ſuch as it is, I preſent to thy indifferent and diſcreete iudgement. The Booke was firſt written by *Ianus Dubrauius* in Latine, and now publiſhed in Engliſh for the profite of all: which if I ſhall perceiue to haue courtuous acceptation, it ſhall encourage me hereafter to impart to thy courteſie a Treatiſe of greater importance: in the meane time, I leaue this to your indifferencie. Fare well.

To the Reader.



IANVS DVBRAVIVS,

His first Booke of Husbandrie, concerning Fish *and Fish-pondes.*

The definition and deuision of *Pondes. Cap. 1.*

BEfore we enter into our matter, we will speake somewhat of that whereof this litle Booke taketh name, that is to wit, of Fish-Pondes: the which in this place, we will tearme no otherwise then as M. Varro doth, when he defineth them after this sort: Those I call Pondes, which doe keepe Fish shut either in salt or fresh water. Therefore we will haue nothing to do with any other kind of Ponde, whether it be such as men swimme and wash themselues in, whereof Cicero speaketh: I would haue had (sayth he) a more ample and large Ponde, that the armes spread abrode might not be hurt: or whether it be such wherein Beastes and Cattle doe drinke, Geese and Duckes diue, Lupines and Pempe watered: But onely at this time we will intreate of such as conteyne in lyke, and norish Fish: and for that cause the Grecians in one worde doe call it ἰχθυοτροφεῖα, in Englishe properly A receptacle of Fishes: wherof the same M. Varro maketh two sortes, fresh and salt: fresh Pondes he calleth those, which in fresh water haue Fish inclosed. And therein the sayd M. Varro is bolde

A kinde of pulse so called.

to write, that the Auncientes were so weerie of Cheuins and Mullets, as they had them in contempt. And further writeth: There is neither Peysant nor Clowne, but he will say to him selfe, that he passeth not whether his Ponde be full of those Fishes (meaning Cheuins and Mullets) or els of Frogges: And they do so litle regarde fresh Pondes, as voyde of commoditie and worthinesse, that they doe banish them from the high estates to the rude people, voyde of taste, and without vnderstanding. Salt Pondes he calleth those, which in salt water haue Sea Fish: These were had sometime in such estimation and honour, that their fauterers were with as much renowne called *Orata*, Gilt head familie: *Murena*, Lamprey familie, because they bred and loued that kind of Fish as were the Numantini and Isaurici, so called of those people, vanquished & ouercommed by them: for as then to them the worthynesse & profite of fresh-water Pondes were not knowen, as now they be to vs. And first of all we will intreat of the worthynesse of Fish-pondes.

Of the worthinesse of Pondes, in our Countrey much esteemed. Cap. 2.

CAn there be a greater or more certaine example of the worthynesse of Pondes, then that whereby not onely the owners be made rich through their yeerely reuenewes and rentes, but also the measurers and ouerseers be deliuered from slauerie and bondage, and restored to liberty and freedome? How many do we see lately but slaues borne and Horse-keepers, now (as Persius saith) with a blast made Marcus Damas? By none other meanes, then by putting all their endeuour and diligence to cherishe and preserue these Pondes. Yea the very Bailiffes of meaner substance, willingly take vpon them the administration of Pondes, as a famous and worthy thing: and much reioyce to be praysed of the hearers, as often as they declare how notably

notably they haue thriued by Pondes. It also delighteth the wealthier and more worshipfull, sometimes to be present at fishing: for I not long ago in Siletia, met with a certaine gouernour of that countrey by chaunce, as I passed by the bankes of his Ponds, harnessed on the legges after the maner of a Fisherman, and there I heard him excuse alwell his fyshers habite, as also his fyshing, with such like wordes. If the hunting of an Hare be not vnseemely for a Gouernour, I see no cause then why fishing for Carpe or Picke should be vnfit or vndecent. I may adde to this, how Mathias king of Hungarie* was not ashamed often times to bayte at Pond-pardes: and when as almost all the Kinges which raigned before him in Hungarie, had wonne great renowme through their valiant deedes, hee found the meanes by the great magnificence of Pondes, to excell in prayse the most commendable and worthiest Fish maisters in * Bohemia. This was his meane: He commaunded Marions, much like vnto a Porpose, to be brought out of the Flood * Danubio, vnto his Ponde that he had made at his Castle Tatta; for a certaintie knowing this kind of Fish could not be found in Bohemia, nor that the Bohemians could attaine to so much prayse, as to shew a liue Marion in all their Pondes: yet hee him selfe did shew (out of the Ponde mentioned before) to Queene Beatrice, and to the Byshoppe of Romes Legate, the Queenes cosin, and vnto many of the peeres of Bohemia, almost three score: A thing amongst other, much to be marueyled at, that being most vnpatient of captiuitie, did notwithstanding all safely a litle while patiently suffer restraint of libertie. And for as much as I haue made mention of the Fish Mario, I shall not doe amisse in rehearsing that place of Plinie, whence we haue taken this worde, that with one labour we may restore and make it perfect, being ill fauouredly mangled and obscure. In Plinie in his. 9. Booke and. 15. Chapter, intreating of Fishes, most notably for their

* Otherwise called Pannonia. It lieth on the north side of the world, not far from ỹ riuer Taurus: it is for the most part vnder the Turke.

* Beame, a realme by Germany: out of this realme sprung the famous martirs Iohn Huss, & Ierome of Prage: they differ in many examples frō the Popes church.

* The Riuer Danubio hath his beginning in Germany out of an hill Arnobia: after entring into

Illeria, is called Ister, & receiueth vnto him. 60. other Riuers, many of them nauigable: afterward being in. 6 great armes, falleth into the Sea Pontus.

their principall bigneſſe, that is to ſay, of the Fiſh Silures, bred in the Riuer Nilus, Efoce bred in Rheyne, and Attilus bred in the Riuer Po: almoſt in all the printed Bookes we read thus: *Et in Danubio mari extrahitur porculo marino ſimilimus. &c.* And in the Sea Danubio, is taken moſt like vnto a Porpoſe, and the exceeding greatneſſe is recorded in the Towne Boriſthenes, hauing no boones or chynes, a very ſweete meate. Thus farre Plinie: Who aduiſedly and with iudgement, reading this place, ſo euilly agreeing together, and ſo obſcurde, will not eaſely perceiue what a great iniurie is done vnto the Author? As though he wrought thus, And out of the Sea Danubio is taken (ioyning the ſea with the Riuer Danubio, which are two diuers things: and after) moſt like vnto a Porpoſe (comparing the Porpoſe with a Fiſh, whoſe name he knew not: further ſayth) And the notable greatneſſe is recorded in the towne Boriſthenes, leauing it vncertaine what Fiſh it is, whoſe greatnes amongſt all the reſt of him named, is ſo famous. Fie, fie, away with ſuch negligence from ſo excellent and ſo learned a man: we ought rather be accompted moſt negligent, that do corrupt the worde left by him vncorrupted. This place, which this worde Mari hath made ſo voyde of ſence and meaning, for as much as occaſion is offered, I will correct and amende. This therefore is the true and ſincere reading of Plinie, *Et in Danubio, Mario extrahitur. &c.* And out of Danubio is drawen the Fiſh Mario, moſt like vnto a Porpoſe, and the greatneſſe (that is to ſay of the Fiſh Mario) is recorded in the towne Boriſthenes: for as much as his greatneſſe and fatneſſe, as well as of the Fiſh Attilus in Po doth waigh ſomtimes M.l. and at this day is onely taken in the Riuers of Danubio and Boriſthenes, euen ſuch a one as Plinie deſcribeth, without boones or chynes, and a pleaſant meate.

Of the profite that commeth by Pondes. Cap. 3.

ALthough euery where examples may be found to proue the profitablenesse of Ponds, (for none with vs occupyeth any without great gayne) yet the worthyest example is of Ianus of Berenstenie, the richest Ruler or Alderman of Bohemia and Morauia: for I am very sure, that this man onely by the reuennues of his Pondes which he hath in Bohemia, Morania, and Slesia, had the last yeere more then. 12000. Sestertia: that is, a greater summe of money, then that was which the Senators & Nobles of Rome were taxed at by Augustus Cæsar, who augmented the Subsedie. Compare now with Ianus Fish L. Lucullus Fish, which M. Cato, during the minoritie of Lucullus childe (for Lucullus kept his for pleasure, and not for gayne) solde for. 400. Sestertia, according to the valuation of the order of Gentlemen in Rome, and was thought to haue made so notable a bargaine, that M. Varro, Collumella, and last of all Plinie committed that summe of money (amongst other examples) to writing: yet this Ianus almost euery yeere hoordeth vp a greater summe. Whereby it is manifest and apparant, what great profite ariseth in our Countrey of Pondes. Besides this also, I will adde the saying of William of Berenstenie, father to this Ianus, concerning Pondes. He being required to shew his fansie, what maner of Farme he liked best: That quoth he, which hath plentie of Pondes belonging to it. And there by chaunce were two Gentlemen, the one of them had bought a Farme without Ponds for. 400. Sestertia, the other had purchased his, replenished with Pondes, for halfe so much, and either of them were a like indebted. Then William, I durst quoth he (laying downe for a gage no small paune) make a bargaine with any of you (for many stoode by) which truely I will not do, if I had no knowledge or skill in Pondes, that

Locke in Barnaby Googe Esquire. fo. 172 when M. Cato had the wardenshyp of Lucullus, made. 400. li. in one yeere of his Fish in his Pondes.

this man shall sooner with gaine pay his debt by the onely sale of his Fish, then this other shall by his Hay, Corne, and Pearbes: so much the rent of Fish excelles all other thinges. Adde to this also, quoth he, that Pondes neede no such labour and charges as other commodities do, and least of all can be annoyed or hurt by tempestes. Besides this, the riches which ye see me now enioy, I haue got them all by Pondes, and euen at this day I receiue of them a most ample and large rent. When as not onely the wordes of this famous man, but also the thing it selfe, and his riches obteyned by Pondes, made them credite his wordes, they all consented and preferred the profite of Pondes before all other commodities. Now that we haue entreated as well of the worthines, as of the profitablenes of Pondes, it is meete we also shew when they tooke first their beginning.

Of the antiquitie and beginning of Pondes. Cap. 4.

CAssius Hemina, an ancient Historiographer sheweth, how Sea Fish taken out of the Sea, hath been vsed from the buylding of Rome: but he maketh no mention at all of any Pondes, for to this day the wealthier Romans are not acquainted with them. Long after, Sergius Orata, whom Cicero calleth Maister of the riotous persons, because, as V. Max. reciteth, he would not be alwayes subiect to Neptunes arbitrement, He was the first that inuented priuate Sea Pondes, by intercepting the waues in one arme of the Sea, and by shutting in diuers sortes of Fish with seperated dammes, that what soeuer weather or tempest happened, he might haue his Tables furnished with varietie of Fish. He was the first that aduised the best taste vnto Dusters of the Meere Lucrinus, the first also that founde out the Duster pooles in the countrey of Baiana, about the time of L. Crassus the Orator,

Orator, before the conflict at Marsia: at what time also the elder Lucinus Murena found out the Pooles of other Fish, as we reade in Plinie. The Nobilitie folowing these mens examples, buylded them great and sumptuous Pondes. Hortensius at Bauli, Lucullus at Naples: where in cutting downe of an Hill, he spent more substaunce, then he did in buylding his Manner house: and there he letted in Meeres and Armes of the Sea, to refresh his Pondes withall: where Pompey the great, greated Xerxes. And Cicero wryting to Atticus, tearmeth (in one worde) all those which ouermuch delight in Pondes, *Piscinarij*, that is to say, Fish Maisters. And in an other place sayth he, Our Gouernours thinke them selues the greatest men in the worlde, if they haue Barbels in their Pondes that will come to mans hand, such as *Hortensius* had. Of whom Varro writeth, Thou mightest sooner with *Hortensius* leaue, bring out of his Stable his chariot Moyles, and occupie them, then one Barbel out of his Pondes. The same Hortensius so entirely loued a Lampray, that seeing it, amazed, wept: wherfore for this his effeminat hart, I would say he deserued much blame, but that before him L. Crassus Censor, also bewept a dead Lampray as bitterly, as if he had mourned for his onely daughter. Whereby it may appeare, that Fish with their Pondes, were instrumentes more to feede the eyes, then for sustenaunce or foode; and rather emptied their Maisters purse, then filled it, because they were with great charges and cost made, stoord, and preserued, as most eloquently Varro writeth. But as touching our owne Countrey-men, as I dare not affirme, by whom they were first made, and at what time: so it is very apparent, they haue been of long time vsed in Morauia; and from thence, as from the first fountaynes, haue flowed ouer vnto the neighbours adioyning, the Slesians, Polonians, and Hungarians: But in our countrey Pondes, the Carpe and Picke is most esteemed.

Of *Cyprinus*, in Englysh a Carpe. Cap. 5.

SOmewhat I doubted (I confesse) whether I might tearme that Fish Gyprinus, which is commonly called Carpo. The occasion of this doubt was, because Plinie would haue it a Sea Fish. Oppinianus also in his verses wryteth of it as of a Sea Fish, affirming that he spauneth fiue times in one yeere: But Plinie sayth sixe times, when as his opinion is that Carpo casteth spaune but once in a yeere, or twise at the most, and to haunt euery Ponde and Riuer. But at the last Aristotles bookes *De natura animalium*, resolued me of this doubt, in which Aristotle reckoneth sometymes Cyprinus as well amongst the Sea-fysh, as amongst these that liue in Riuers and Ditches, describing him according to the proportion and figure of Carpo, hauing foure guilles on either side the head, a grosse mouth, a thicke and fast tongue, a belly full of frye about the bignesse of Millet. Also he sheweth, that as the nature of Carpo is, such also is the nature of Cyprinus: for he howseleth him selfe by the banke sides, and when he spawneth, coueteth shallow places, and is blasted at the rysing of the Doggestarre: which all are peculiar and proper to the Carpo: not because these two be onely like one another, but one and the selfe same with Cyprinus; differing in name and not in nature. And for because this worde Carpo is barberous, I will altogether reiect it, and in stead thereof, vse this worde Cyprinus: which is indifferently vsed of the Grecians and Latines. And let no man be troubled in searching the cause why his frye is oftner found in the Sea then in Pondes, for how it happeth, I will declare in a more apt place. Now it pertayneth more to purpose, diligently to marke the conditions and qualities of Cyprinus, for as much as nature instituted and made him liue amongst other Fish, without damage doing, and hurting

no

no kinde of thing that lyueth in the water. Besides this, he hath no gaping mouth armed with teeth, but close & tender: and as often as he gapeth, his mouth is round, and shyning like a ring. He hath onely two teeth in his mouth, and those very blunt. Blunt also is his back-boone, & soft be his finnes: and a light male couereth all his body, by reason of the continuall coniunction and ioyning together of the scalles. Such a thing also is his forked tayle, with the which he as quickly swimmeth ouer al the Ponde, as if he were roed in a Boate: and there lyueth of his owne iuice, without any cost to his Maister, bringing this commoditie, that where as he is fatted of his owne, he most delicately feedeth his maister with the pleasant and sweete foode of his body, whether it be rosted, baken, sodden, or salted.

Of the Fish Lucius, *in english a Pike. Cap. 6.*

ALso the name of the Fish Lucius, seemeth in olde time not very famous, for ye shall scarcely repeate an ancienter writer then Ausonius, that so tearmeth him. And this Ausonius by hap rather ridiculously, then by any good ground of reason, mooued with the name of a certaine man called Lucius, in his worke *De Mosella*, writeth thus:

To crooking Frogges a deadly plague, Lucius *by nature is,*
The secret hooles he sets about, that none his furie misse:
Yet he him selfe is nothing worth, nor fit for tables vse,
But sod in smoke with filthy stench, the sence doth foule abuse.

So peraduenture it was in times past, but now the Fish Lucius is made hot in more lightsome and greater fiers, and a chosen meate for Noble mens tables: not that which feedeth on Frogges, or Ipes lurking in myrie holes, but that which in pure and cleere Pondes is fedde and fatted with the frye of Carpe, and therefore sweete, without all vnsauerie tastes, as Martiall sayth:

No Gilt-head sure deserueth price, or yet is worth the dish,
If that the same deuowreth not, of Lucryne meere the fysh.

So commendable & delectable a Fish is the Pike, to whom in Pondes Carpes frye is foode: and thereof both quickly and tenderly increaseth. And no doubt, if Ausonius had tasted of him thus fed, he would haue refrayned from so vnmodest a slaunder. In nature and disposition he is lyke vnto a Wolfe: for he is like rauening, like greedy and hurtfull, and so eger, that oft times he is cruell to his owne kind, and in extreame hunger feedeth on earth: For this cause, many rather call him Lupus, a Wolfe, then Lucius, a Pike, when as amongst rauening Fish there is no kindes of Wolues then one, as witnesseth Collumella, who counselleth to put into Pondes rauening Fish of one disposition, rather then diuers of conditions. But some men will heere peraduenture aske, Why we put into Pondes the Pike, being a spoyler and an enemie to Carpes frye? Marie to liten and ease the Ponde, vnprofitably loden and combred with too much frye, that the Carpes preserued for increase and fatnes, whylest they feede more freely through the smalnes of the number, may sooner to our vse waxe great and thicke, and so with the fat and thicke Pikes, may be solde for more money: For if a Pond were free and cleere of the great swarme of young Fishes, it should be neither profitable nor needefull, to commit Sheepe (as the prouerbe is) vnto a Wolfe. I can not choose, but must needes in this place commit to writing that spectacle which once I saw with mine eyes at the Pondes nigh to the Castle Cremsiris, when as I accompanied Bishop Stanislane Thurzo: There lay lurking in a corner of the Pondes side a Frogge at variance with a Pike, and when as by fortune the Pike like vnto an idle loyterer, litely with his tayle to and fro, forrowed the toppe of the water, til at the last he came neere vnto the place where the Frogge lay in wayte: the Frogge ouerslipped not this occasion, but as soone as he saw opportunitie to assault his enemie, with swollen cheekes and angrie eyes, at vnawares he leapt vpon his

his head, and ſtretching abrode his feete, imbraced his forehead (marke the wyliues of the beaſt) eſpecially aſſayled the Pikes eyes, tearing with his teeth his tender partes. The Pike mooned with anguiſh and paine, ſometimes ſwiftly ſwam in the water, ſturring vp the waues; ſometimes with whorling turned about, ſometimes rubbed him againſt the ſhrubbes and reedes that appeared aboue the water, trying all theſe meanes to be deliuered from this euill, and to ſhake from his brow the enemie, being of no force, in compariſon to his: But all his labour was in vaine, ſo violently the Frogge bit his brow, and ſo ſtoutly tooke reuengment on his tormentour and troublour, till ſuch time as ſtrength fayling through much wreſtling, the Pike vanquiſhed, ſhrunke downe, and ſunke with the Frogge to the bottome. Wee all this while ſtanding in the ſame place, and looking after the wreſtlers that ſhewed vs this paſtime, wherein we tooke no ſmall delight, beholde ſodaynly the Frogge riſeth to the toppe, reioycing and crooking like a conquerour, getteth him againe to his caue. The Byſhop ſtraight commaunded the Fiſher-men to be called, if they ſearching with their nettes, and finding the Pike, might declare what had happened. The Pike is drawen forth blinde on both eyes, not without our great admiration: but the Fiſher-men willed vs to leaue and ceaſe from maruey-ling, for as much as they haue often happened on ſuch frayes, and often haue taken Pikes made blinde on both their eyes by Frogges, and thoſe to be very leane, becauſe they being depriued of their eyes, could not hunt after their pray, but onely ballaſſe their bellies with barren and vnfruitfull land.

The names of ſuch Fiſhes as of their owne accord come into Pondes. Cap. 7.

NOt without good cauſe and reaſon we haue made mention of the Carpe and Pike in ſeuerall chapters: for either of them (but eſpecially the Carpe) are eſteemed among thoſe Fiſh, for whoſe ſake we firſt digged

our Pondes. For partly mooued through the excellencie of either of them (for as much as they both be Farmers of Pondes as lawfull tenantes of the same) as partly also that Fish-maisters knowing the nature and trade of eyther Fish, might also learne to handell them according to their kinde, we haue seuerally intreated of them. Now it resteth generally to speake of such Fish as without a bringer, and of their owne accorde with the water, slippe into Pondes, and being there, as well increase the number of Fish, as also their Maisters rent. Of this sort be such as Ausonius in his verses *De Mosella* repeateth:

Tench, Bleake, Barbel, Pearch, Breme, Gogeon, Eles, Lampryes, Creuises.

Who now of fresh & bleeding Tench, knowes not the pleasant tast,
And eke of Bleake, ful soone deceaud, with childrens hooks in cast:
The Fish aloft, the peoples face, in crackling fier heate,
The daintie Pearch & Gogeon to, are found most pleasant meate.

Yea the very Barbel, & sometimes the Eele, in floods enters the Pondes: but with litle Brookes come in Pilchardes, Creuisses, & such like, of lesse growth. For the Fish which the Bohemians call Pitrussa, often found in Pondes, is supposed of some a Carpe, but base, and as it were vntimely borne; yet in taste not vnpleasant, especially if it be broyled on a Gredyron. Also the Fish called Charax, in forme and bignesse is not much vnlike to Carpes frye, but that his body is broade, and his backe trenched with sharpe synnes (whereof he taketh his name) and towardes his tayle is paler, by reason of his glistering scalles. But the Sea Charax both in backe and tayle glistereth like golde: and besides that, is adorned (as Aelius sayth) with purple lisles, and purple eyes. Neither of these ye can finde in our Countrey, no not that which hath the roe where the teeth standeth out. This our Fish breeders call Characen, who prouide so well for feeding of the Carpe, and take such diligent heede, that in the selfe same Ponde it be not mingled with Carpes, because so litle a Charax both can & dare driue the great Carpe frō his meate. These be the chiefe principalles of Pondes, the rest hereafter we will in order intreat of.

The ende of the first Booke.

THE PREFACE TO THE SECOND BOOKE.

AFter that abundantly I haue in my former Booke (as I ſuppoſe) proſecuted thoſe thinges for the which Pondes be neceſſarie and profitable, the order of the matter now requireth in this next Booke, to ſhew and demonſtrate the way how to make them, leaſt perhappes by omitting it, we following chaunce (called the maiſter of Fooles) ſhall afterward be rewarded for our fooliſhneſſe: that is to ſay, after we haue been damnified, we ſhall at length be compelled to correct the faultes, which can not be amended without loſſe of new and great charges: when as before at the beginning of our worke, we ought warely haue taken heede of committing any ſuch errour. Wee ſhall therefore repeut vs nothing at all in ioyning to theſe, certaine inſtructions and Rules, which appertaine to the leuelling of the water, and alſo the due proportions and ſymmetries which are required in rayſing and making of the dammes or heades of Pondes: for in vſing them, we ſhall waſte no more ground then is needfull; nor occupie leſſe then is requiſite, but iuſt as much as is neceſſarie: for theſe due proportions being vtterly vnknowen vnto our firſt makers of Pondes, haue been the very cauſe that at this day many thinges are wanting and required in our olde Pondes, and therefore are dayly renewed & brought to their lawfull meaſure by their miſtres Symmetria. This

Symmetria, though ſuch men as exerciſe meaſuring of Pondes, would haue hidden and vnknowen (as the Lawyers of Rome were wont to keepe cloſe their Hollidayes) that the common ſort of Fiſh-maiſters might aſke of them counſaile as of an Oracle: yet they ſhall pardone vs, and giue vs leaue to folow and imitate in this place *Gn. Elauius*; for as he did teach the people to know euery Holliday, ſo we will declare to all men the trades of theſe men which make Pondes by meaſure, and we will picke out the Crowes eyes, as (*Cicero* ſayth) *Flauius* did in his Callender. But firſt we will intreate of the ſituation of Pondes,

Of the ſituation, place, and *making of Pondes. Cap. 1.*

COllumella ſaith, It is the firſt poynt that belongeth to making of Pondes, to conſider the nature of the place where you purpoſe to make it. A notable ſaying of Collumella, For that Ponde at laſt is well made, which hath the nature of the place and ſituation agreeable to it. The place in nature being more fat then leane, more moyſt then dry, more thinne then thicke, is iudged beſt for Carpe Pondes; becauſe chiefly Carpes be nouriſhed with earthly foode. No leſſe alowable is ſandie & chaulkie grounde, mingled with fat ſoyle: for naked and barren ground is refuſed, as nothing worth to keepe and nouriſh Carpe in. Reiected alſo is the place that is full of quezie Weeres, and in which alwayes ſtandeth a filthy naturall moyſture of the earth. In mockage of this, we will vſe in ſtead of a prouerbe: Hee that ſoweth in durt, ſhall reape durt. And the beſt & aptest place for the ſituation of Pondes, is either very playne, or ſomewhat prone and hanging downe, moſt largely extending it ſelfe in Feelde, Meddowe, or Groue. Neither ought the loſſe of Corne, of Hey, or of Wood, feare you from your purpoſe: for if you ſeeke after profite, a meaſure of Carpes is more worth then is a cocke of Hey, a ſhoke of Corne, or a burden of Wood; prouiding alway, that ſome Riuer runne nie thy appoynted Ponde: But if there be none ſuch,

Then let there run ſome pleaſant Spring, or moſſie poole hard by:
Or els through graſſe ſome ditch foreſee, with tricling courſe do fly

For without moyſture Fiſh will not liue: and therefore he playeth a bolde part, that maketh his Pondes in dry places, onely truſting to raine water, for ſo he may be deceyued, if any great drouth happen, as often it chaungeth, but eſpecially in Sommer. And this was the cauſe that mooued the olde auncientes, to make their Pondes hard by the Sea coaſt, to

the

the intent they might neuer be deſtitute of abundance and plentie of water: yet they with ſo great choyce of place, made not their Pondes as we do now a dayes: for they pickt out places for Pondes, which were rocky, ſtony, or barren, and ſuch as through the abſence of the Sunne, they had none other commoditie by: Wee contrariwiſe eſchew no place more, then a barren and miſerable ground, moſt vnfortunate for Carpe, becauſe it wanteth the iuce and meyſture of the earth, wherewith the Carpe is nouriſhed and made fatte. They againe compaſſed their deepe digged Pondes with banckes, and kept water in them euery where with like leuelling, as commonly we vſe to ſee in Pittes: but wee deſire nothing leſſe then to haue our Pondes deepe on the ſides, for Carpe loueth the ſhallow, and in ſhallow places feedeth, and there ſpawneth. And that our Pondes may be correſpondent to his nature, the maner and forme of it is ſo made, that except the Damme, which we make at the head of the Ponde, bending into corners, and ſometimes along by the ſides, there is nothing els incloſed, but all thinges are open without let or barcke, and freely by playne and open ſople, the waters are ſpread abrode, euen vnto the farthеſt partes, preſcribed by the Leueller.

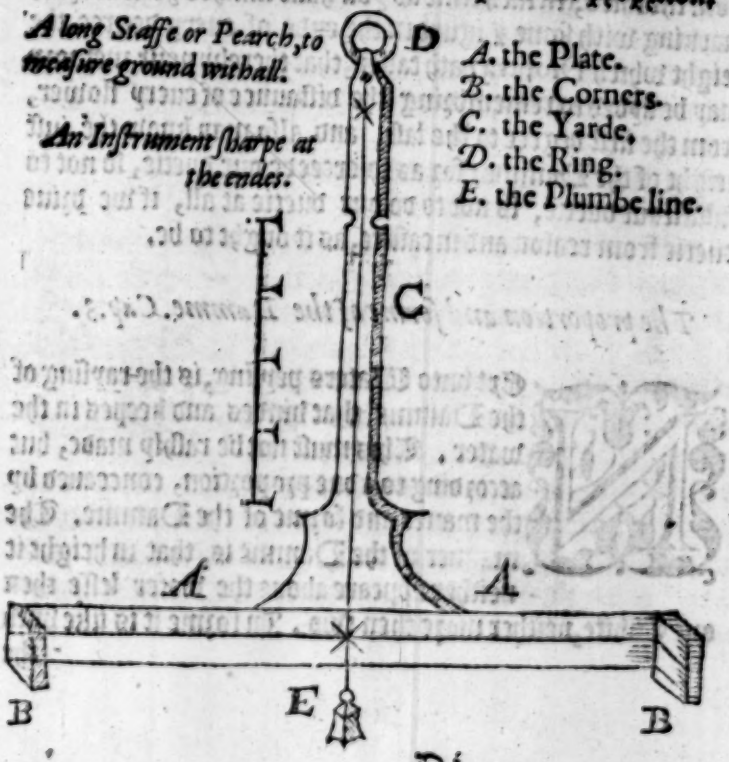
Of Leueling the water, and Inſtrumentes for the ſame. Cap. 2.

THe duetie of a conueigher of Waters, is to view the place, whether it be good for Pondes, with much looking and looking: and when by often beholding, it pleaſeth him, then with his Line he muſt leuell out the height of the water, and geſſe how high the Damme muſt be made, to ſtoppe the ouerflowing of the water. Water is waighed (*Vitruuius* ſayth) by Dioptra, by water limmes, or els by Corobates: but with more ſpeede (the ſame *Vitruuius* ſayth) it is finiſhed by Corobates, becauſe Dioptra and Libra do often deceiue vs. The forme and faſhion of this Corobates, he in his 8. Booke with many wordes and much

much eloquence openeth: and we vse it but confusedly with other, as also we do Libra and Dioptra, of the same man described. But because no man can easely cary about Corobates, being .xx. foote long, we will set foorth the litle Instrument Dioptra, not much bigger then two handfulles, such a one as euery man may carry about in his Purse, and measure Pondes withall. It is thus made: Make smoth and playne a litle Plate of Brasse or Iron, vii. or viii. fingers long, in breadth the length of the ring finger. To this ioyne corners in the vtter endes also smoth, and boored through the middle, where the sight of the eye may passe through. To the middle of this ioyne an other Plat, hauing in the top a ring, and a litle vnder it a pin to hang the plumbe line by, according to ỹ figure you see here set out. And Fish maisters vse this Dioptra as the chiefest Instrument of their science, trusting nothing at all the sight of their eyes, because it may deceiue their iudgement as often as they be destituted of such Rules wherewith their workes are kept in due proportion.

A long Staffe or Pearch, to measure ground withall.

An Instrument sharpe at the endes.



A. the Plate.
B. the Corners.
C. the Yarde.
D. the Ring.
E. the Plumbe line.

Di.

When you will vse this Dioptra, see you haue in a readinesse a Pearch, marked with a conuenient number of Cubites: then lay the same Pearch on the place and ground where you purpose to draw your proportion. When you haue so done, fasten a sharpe Instrument to the Pearch, marked also with a certaine number of Cubites: Out of which Instrument Dioptra may hang by the ring, leuelled right by the Plumbe line, for it will shew no certaintie, vnlesse it be euen and equally hanged, then moue your eye to the sight hooles (for this purpose a fayre & calme day must be chosen, for the lesse the wind beates vpon thy Instrument, the sooner and better you shall haue a leuelled Ponde) through the which hooles, if you see but a little shelfe, it is soone amended: but if there appeare a greater then at one time may be easely seene: or if peraduenture trees do shadow or hinder it, then from the first degree make euen so much ground as your sight can attaine to, and so consequently from the second, and after from the third, till such time as you haue finished your worke, marking with some Figure in the ende of euery degree the height which Dioptra hath taken, that thereby your memory may be ayded in remembring the distaunce of euery flower, from the first degree to the last, and also may know the iust height of the Damme: for as to exceede our duetie, so not to fulfill our duetie, is not to do our duetie at all, if we driue duetie from reason and measure, as it ought to be.

The proportion and forme of the Damme. Cap. 3.

NExt vnto Waters peysing, is the rayling of the Damme, that bindes and keepes in the water. This must not be rashly made, but according to a due proportion, conceaued by the maner and forme of the Damme. The manner of the Damme is, that in height it neither appeare aboue the water lesse then one Cubite, neither more then two. In forme it is like vnto the

the creſt of an Helmet: for looke what height the Damme ſhalbe of, ſo much muſt the breadth be in the toppe where the Damme is narrowed like vnto a Creſt, and three times ſo thicke muſt the foundation be. As for an example: There is a bancke which muſt be rayſed .iii. Cubites high, for proportions ſake it muſt be in the top .iii. Cubites alſo in breadth, and beneath at the foundation, ix. for alwayes the proportion of making a Bancke requireth this, that looke how many Cubites the height conteynes, ſo many the breadth in the top muſt comprehende, and three times as many muſt be attributed to the foundation. And Nature ſeemeth to allow this reaſon, which as Vitruuius ſayth, hath geuen vnto all Trees almoſt this propertie, that from the Roote they waxe thicke, and by litle & litle growing in height, are leſſoned, becauſe the neather partes ought to be more ſuer then the vpper, to beare the burden of boughes and fruites. The length of the Dammes we willingly omit, becauſe the littleneſſe and greatneſſe of the Ponde will declare the length and ſhortnes of it: for the longer the Ponde is, the longer is the Damme; the narrower, the ſhorter: and either of theſe two, when proportion needeth not, euery man may meaſure with an Inſtrument of .x. foote long, or with a Line.

The manner how to make the foundation. Cap. 4.

FOr as much as the beginning of euery Damme, as alſo of other buyldinges, conſiſteth in the Foundation, it is a thing not impertinent to declare the making of Foundations in Pondes: for ſome there be that without any Foundation at all, begin to creet it with Turfe. In this they do amiſſe: becauſe the Damme made without a Foundation, is often pierſed, and waſht away with water: ſometimes alſo by reaſon of too much and dayly moyſtnes, it decayeth and falleth down: Other ſome there be, who thinkes it ſufficient

to make their Trench no deeper then may with a Plough be cast vp: and of necessitie I must confesse, such a worke often times prospers well, if a fat and fast ground be eared vp. But such as do spare no cost, and prouide for an euerlasting Damme, do thus. First of all they measure out the plat for the Foundation, then in the steepest part of the Ponde they make channelles, that as often as neede requireth, the water may haue an easie passage through the Ponde. Then they make pathes within, hard adioyning to the Damme, wherein the Fisher-men whilst they be a fyshing, may handsomly stande, walke, and gather their nettes. And lastly, if the earth be leane and sandy, they digge the foundation in breadth. iii. Cubites, or somewhat more; in deapth also three: but if it be indifferent, then they digge but halfe so deepe, and casting the earth againe into the trench, settles it with often ramming and beating, that thereby it may more stiffly and strongly withstande the distilling and strayning of the water: the rest of the raw molde, that it may cleaue and binde faster, they mingle with other earth brought in Cartes to fill the damme withall. The Damme must be raysed and filled by little and little, and euery where be made with due proportion, til such time as it comes to his iust height. And to the intent our workemen deceiue vs not in this their hired worke, when we be away, or negligently occupied, get a cunning, expert, and skilfull man to ouerlooke their worke, & see whether equally to his proportion euery where it rise, that no where it bende and leane downe, subiect to ruine, that it haue no chinkes, nor that it gapes with furrowes: but contrary wyse by often drawing of Cartes and trampling, the Damme be hard troden and consolidated: for often times when the ouerseer is absent, that with more speede and lesse labour, the Damme may be finished, they some times stoppe hollow places with stakes or blockes, some times with peeces of turffe: but thus especially they doe when they be hyred for litle money.

Of

Lerates in hyring Laborers. Cap. 5.

LEaſt vnawares in hyring Laborers to make our Pondes, we be deceyued, it is alſo needefull to know the wayes inuented in meaſuring of Pondes, that thereby we may be free, and deliuered from all deceite of our workemen: And hereof be two kindes. The one way is to meaſure by Cordes, the other by Beedes. A Corde contaynes in length. 42. Cubites, a Beede the. 4. part leſſe, that is to ſay. 10. Cubites and a halfe. The Fiſh-maiſters call a Beede all the ſpace within the. 4. ſquare banckes, contayning in deapth one Cubite, and in length and breadth as I haue ſayd before. 10. Cubites and a halfe. And for becauſe we hyer Laborers oftner by Beedes then by Cordes, we will firſt intreate and ſhew the rate of euery Beede. The price of euery Beede adioyning to the Ponde banckes, is. 4. ſiluerlinges, after that rate where. 30. ſiluerlinges make one peece of our golde: the next Beede increaſes one ſiluerling more: likewiſe the thirde, and ſo foorth in all the reſt increaſing one: for what is more equall, then to augment their wages as their labour & trauayle increaſeth? For it is very certaine, that the farther they labour from the banckes, the greater is their payne, by reaſon of the greater diſtaunce. And leaſt we herein alſo be deceiued, an expeart man muſt againe ouerlooke this worke, who with his Cubite and Ruler (ſuch as Rough-maſons vſe) may ſearch out the deceite: for the Cubite let downe into the hollownes of the Ponde, will declare whether the flower be ſufficiently boulged according to his proportion: and by the Ruler it will truely appeare whether the earth equally in euery place be caſt away and remooued. Thus much of the firſt way. The other as it is more ſubtile, ſo it is onely knowen to the cunning and expert in this faculty, forbecauſe at one in-

ſtance it comprehendes the ſumme of all the whole worke: for no man will goe about to make a Damme, before he know how much earth is requiſite and neceſſarie for the filling of it. And in ſhewing this way vnto the ignorant, we will follow the common experiment, which is ſuch: Adde the two breadths of the Damme together, that is to ſay, the breadth in the bottome, and the breadth in the toppe: as for an example. If the toppe of the Damme be. 5. Cubites brode, the bottome (as we haue ſayd before) muſt be. 15. Cubites in breadth: both theſe ſummes added togeather, makes 20. Cubites: the halfe of this is. 10. Cubites, which being multiplyed by the height of the Damme, that is to ſay, by. 5. Cubites, maketh. 50. Cubites: this againe multiplyed by the length of the corde, that is, by. 42. Cubits, maketh. 2100. Cubites. Thus farre of Multiplication: now followeth Subduction, which muſt be done by a hundred, the which ſumme euery beede meaſured by Cubites contayneth, beſide the halfe Cubites, which are not accompted in this way of meaſuring. Take therefore out of ſo many hundredes as there be in the laſt number of multiplication, there remaines 21. ſo many Beedes we ſhall ſay one corde contaynes in length, and. 5. Cubites in height. Now if you caſt the ſeuerall ſumme of euery Beede (after the rate I tolde you before) and after adde them into one whole ſumme, the price of euery cordes laboure ſhalbe. 4. peeces of golde, and. 9. ſiluerlinges: and for ſo much money the firſt corde muſt be let to hier, and ſo euery one according to the rate before declared: vnleſſe peraduenture the dearenes of Victualles, or the laborioulneſſe of the place, as mariſh and wooddy places, compell vs to change our lawfull rate, Then it ſhall not be amiſſe to adde an ouerplus. Now followes the incloſing of the Pond.

Of

Of fatifying the Head or Damme. Cap.6.

AS Tentes in a fielde are trenched about to withstand the assault of the enemies, so ought the head of a Ponde withstand the force of the water, and peraduenture more to, because continually without truce taking, the water beates vpon it. There be two diuers and seuerall kindes of fortifying the Head: the names of them both we will borow of Vitruuius, and call the one of them *Reticulatum*, that is to say, made like a Nette: the other, *Incertum*, that is, Vncertaine. *Reticulatum* is like vnto a hedge (wrething & folding about postes driuen in the Ponde, boughes and twigges of trees.) *Incertum* is when without order behinde the postes we heape one blocke vpon an other: and this way is vsed of many, as well for the swift speede in making, as for the sureneſſe in lasting. But whether of these two wayes so euer you like best, be sure yee set so the postes, that there be some distance betweene them: and for some & sightes sake, it must somewhat leane slope wayes towardes the Head. The postes must be so hard driuen into the ground with a water Pile or Commaunder, that they can not be mooued or shaken, els the force and vehemencie of the water continually beating on them will loose them: and also in Winter season, if the Ice be frozen hard to the postes, and then some sodayne thaw happen, it maketh the waters to swel and rise vp, and so pluckes vp the postes, fences and all. Thus often times all the whole worke is dissolued & stroyed: for which cause, we will rather allow their counsell, who (prouiding for an euerlasting Head) makes the fence of Stone rather then of Wood: for although it being made of Wood, it is durable enough, yet it will endure no long time, either by the Floodes dissolued, or through moysture corrupted; or if all other occasions lacks, through age rotted: but Stones do last for euer. And if there be no plentie of

Stones (for which cause by reason of the greatnes of the charges, many will not occupy them therein) I thinke I shall not doe amisse to shew vnto such, as either willingly or of necessitie compelled, doe vse the Woodden worke, what trees are more or lesse durable in the water, admonishyng by the way the Fish-breeders, first to inclose with thicker hedges all such places where as the Fish may escape out, and to stop or binde the channels or gutters with woodden clasps, so that they start not aside, or out of their place, or with chinkes gape.

What maner of Timber is fittest for the Hedge. Cap. 7.

OF all Timber trees the Oke is aptest for Pondes: because it is most durable both in the water and in the earth. The next for continuance in moysture, is the Firre tree, & for that cause it is most fitte (Oke excepted) for the channels made vnder the Pond bonckes, or for the Yarde, commonly called a Sluce: or as Collumella describeth it, a thing standing ouer the channell, stopping the mouth of it, so that except we list, the water can neither come in, neither runne out. I was by, when a bancke of my Ponde at Blains was from the foundation new reared and amended, and there I saw the Gutter made of Firre tree taken out of the ground, so greene both in wood and in rine, that I supposed it had lyen there no long time. While I was thus imagening with my selfe, beholde there came from the next Mill an olde man, who beholding the Gutter, This same Gutter quoth he, about. 50. yeeres agoe I did helpe to lay heere with mine owne handes. At this I smiled: he answered, Maister I speake in earnest: and from thence he went vnto the Towne, and within a while after returned, and brought with him three men of

like

like age, which all did beare witnesse of the same. Then I remembred I had read somewhat of this matter in Plinie: and in deede I was not deceyued, for turnyng ouer my Booke, I founde thus written of the Firre tree in his. 71. Booke. Men say the Firre tree barked about the braunching tyme (in the foresayd Moone) will not putrifie in the water. The Authours from whence Plinie had this, saw some reason why the Firre tree shoulde be barked: but our Fish-maisters haue tryed the Firre tree with the barke, longer to continue in the water, then without the barke. Durable in moysture is the Elder tree, durable also is the Pine tree: but their strength consisteth more in the land then in the water. Againe, an Elme tree long resistes puffes and blastes of winde, and therefore good to make trenches and hedges, with whom Oke is skant. But Aesculus, a Willow tree, and a Birch tree, are good neither to resist blastes, nor to lye in moysture: because they will soone dry and wyther away. Plinie calleth a Birch tree, A French tree, of a marueilous whitenes and slendernes, a terrible rodde of Magistrates: seeming thereby, that it is a rare tree in Bohemia and Germanie, and also skant, or not to grow at all in other Countreys.

Of the Gutter, Hedge, and Sluce. Cap. 8.

What manner of thing a Gutter or a Hedge is, the Lawyers can best define: for Vlpianus in his Booke *De Riuis*, describeth them thus. A Gutter is a low place about the side of Riuers, called in Latine *Incile*, because it is cut off from some Riuer: For either some Hill or earth is cut out, by the which water is conueyed out of Riuers into Pondes, or els some Stone or Rocke. Hedges be such as are made about the Gutter, to direct and keepe

the water in his course, be it made of Stone, or of any other kinde of matter. And because it often times happeneth that Riuers rising and swelling, the water ouerflowing, the Gutter ouerfloweth also the Damme of the Ponde, see thou haue ready in time, either some spoute laide in the toppe of the Damme, or the inner side, fenst about with postes, stakes, and thicke plankes, against the violence of the water: or els on the outter side barde by the bancke, make some long Ditch, which alwayes may be open to receiue the Flood: for a Spoute is none other thing, but an open place by the which the superfluous water may auoide into some Lake or Poole. To this place appertayneth that which Suetonius maketh mention, how Claudius Cæsar made a Spoute to the Lake Fucius, and a Gate in Rome towardes Ostia. Thus we haue sufficiently spoken of buyldinges, and vnderbuyloinges of Pondes.

Facius a Lake in Italie.

The ende of the seconde Booke.

TO the intent we may haue, not Pondes in name (for ſo we ſhould haue, if we were onely content with the naked workmanſhyp) but alſo in deede, it is expedient and neceſſarie we intreate as well of the conueyance of the water, as of the bringing and putting in of Fiſh into Pondes, that theſe new tenementes may be inhabited with new tenauntes: for if Pondes want th'one of theſe two; but rather if they be deſtitute of both, great occaſion ſhalbe giuen of laughter. As for example: Of late a certaine Knight of *Bohemia*, (more skilfull a great deale to plead and decide cauſes, then to make Pondes) going about to winne the goodwill of a ritch olde Widdow, he bragged & vaunted his knowledge to be as good in making of Pondes, as in debating of matters: and for a tryall of his cunning, he digged in that place a Ponde, whereto no kinde of water or moyſture might be brought. This his deede cauſed him to be a ſufficient laughing ſtocke: yet he exagarated his folly more with his wordes, in that he defended it, and reaſoned of the filling of this Ponde, not by gourdes of raine water, but by a miraculous manner, as by ſuch a miracle as is mentioned in *Moſes* booke. To theſe two was added a third ſport: for whileſt the Knight (like a Woolfe) gaped for ſome gayne, he loſt his pray, and was forſaken and refuſed of the Widdow: and for his gaynes, his paynes, and loſſe of the olde womans charge, was his reward. To this intent I haue repeated this leſſe, thereby to admoniſh vs what we ought to eſchew, and what to folow, in making of Pondes: That is to ſay, we ought to haue a perfect Ponde in rampier and valley, in water and fyſh: We will therefore begin to intreate of the conueyance of water.

Of conueying VVater into Pondes. *Cap. 1.*

VVAter is conueyed into Pondes out of Riuers, Brookes, or Lakes, either by Ditches or by Channels from the higher bankes, that the water running downe a sloope of it selfe, neede none other helpe to force it in: for if the Riuer and Ponde be of equall leuell, then there must be some Sluce, Flood-gate, or some other such like inuention set ouerthwart the Riuer, that the water rising and swelling in height, may with a fall runne into the Ponde. But if the Riuer be lower then the leueling of the Ponde, so that by no meanes any water may runne out, then we may fasten in the channell of the Riuer a wheele, drawing vp water in Buckets and Kettles, the which being turned about with the vehemencie of the water, shall yeelde vnto vs our desire. But if this may not be done, because the ill disposition of the place will not suffer it, then onely raine water is our helpe and last refuge: which when it is fallen and standes dispersedly in the feeldes, make furrowes in the playne where it standes, whereby it may runne out of the feelde into thy Ponde. It maketh some matter whether the water be raine water, or falleth from the Mountaines, or commeth out of the Feeldes: for as the raine water is vncertaine, so also it is barren and not nourishyng. Also barren is that water that commeth from the Mountaines, because it falleth downe with greater force, and is colder then Yce, which in Sommer is not good for the Carpe: But water comming out of the plaine Feeldes, because it runneth softly, and is made

Raine water barren & not nourishyng.

made warme with the heate of the Sunne, and many kindes of Fish breedes therein, it is most nourishyng. I can not but prayse much a neighbour of mine, a very expeart man in making of Pondes: for not long since, he seeing me making of a Ponde, and labouring to bring the next Spring of his owne accorde to runne out of the Mountaines into my Ponde, friendly and familiarly he admonished me, saying. I would thinke it were farre better for you to bring into your Ponde the water of yonder Riuer, though it be farther off, then of this your Spring. I answered, I had rather haue that which was more ready and neerer hand, then the other more laborious and costly. Whereat he smyled, and sayd: then I perceiue you had rather fill your Ponde with stones and grauell, then with Fish: for what els doth the Spring, falling from the hard Rocke, bring with it then stones, and flintes, and barren sande: and contrarie wise, the Riuer, for as much as it fostereth vp many kindes of Fish, you shall haue a fatter and better Ponde to increase your substaunce with. I folowed his counsell, and it succeeded well.

How much, and by what meanes water is brought into Pondes. Cap. 2.

AS long as the Damme is raw, myrie, and full of chinkes, it is not good to fill it with much water: for if immediately after the finishing, any force of water chaunce to beat vpon the dammes, it shal also chaunce that through weakneſſe and greennesse, the Damme can not resist the violence of the water, but it will distill through as through a Siue: and by the meanes of this distilling, the Damme weakened with much moysture, will fall downe. Such men therefore as minde to haue their Dammes continue long, they must fill their Pondes very softly, by stintes and by measure: for the water softly and gently running in, doth no harme at all: And stintes bring

this commoditie, that in letting in the water by measure, the new Damme in some places dry, and in other places moyst, doth better settle, and is made more strong. And this is soone done, if we let not in too much water at once: for it is sufficient enough at the first fillyng, to let the water rest about the middle. Whilst the water remayneth still about one place, we must often renew the Ponde with fresh and new water, to the intent to wash away all faultes, all bitternesse and yll sauours, ryslng either of the soyle, or through the situation and rawnesse of Trees that do hedge, compasse in, and defende the same: for of these thinges, as of poyson, Fish most commonly die: I will proue it by an example of mine owne experience. In a Feelde of mine, where I had very lately felled Okes, and as yet was greene and sauored, I made a Ponde to keepe Fish in for the necessarie prouision of my houshold: it being finished, I forbade my Stewarde to put any Fish therein, before he supposed it wel washed & wet: but he impacient of so long delay, did put into this raw and new Ponde no small number of Carpes. The next day he came vnto me, and shewed the whole matter, how the Carpes were all dead through the corrupted water: he acknowledgeth his fault, and asketh pardone for his offence, and for breaking of my commaundement: and he obtayneth it but vpon this condition, that from hence foorth he be more wise, and obey better my commaundements. Thus much concerning the bryngyng in of the water.

The best times to put Carpes frie into new Pondes. Cap. 3.

WHen as the new Ponde is sufficiently fylled with water, then foloweth in order this, that out of the nurse Pondes we take our Carpes frie, and put them therein. Two times of the yeere are iudged best for this purpose: that is, the Spryng tyme, and Haruest tyme.

Spring and Haruest.

The

The Spring time is very good, for at that time without any danger you may remoue any Carpe, what age so euer it be of, be it of one yeere, two yeeres, or three yeeres growth: But in Harueſt time, becauſe of the neerenes of Winter, and of the continuall Inundations, you do very dangerouſly, if you put in any vnder two or three yeeres growth. Notwithſtanding, ſome men there be who prefer Harueſt time before the Spring, ſo perſwaded, becauſe that Carpes the ſooner they leaue the nurſe Pondes, & brought to other Pondes the ſooner and better they feede. This myght peraduenture ſeeme a ſtrong reaſon, and not to be infringed, if that Carpes feede in Winter ſeaſon: but ſeeing they lie hid in holles all that ſeaſon, and from thence depart not into any deepe place to feede, before the beginning of the Spring, How can it be that they excell the other Carpes put in at the Spring time, when as they both at the ſame time (to wit at the beginning of the Spring) do feede in common on one kinde of foode: Wherefore I am ſurely perſwaded, that thoſe men which are ſo much delighted with Autumne, do flie thyther perforce, compelled rather for neceſſitie then for profite, hauing at none other time any ſtore of water to fill their Ponde: but where any plentie of water is in the Spring time, there in mine opinion, it is farre better after you haue fyſhed your Ponde in Autumne, to let it lie voyde deſtitute of water all the Winter ſeaſon, that with the raine and other moyſture, it might be puffed vp and made to ſwell, then with continuall drowninges made myrie: becauſe it is not the myre, but the fertilitie of the ſoyle that fatteth Carpes. Your frie muſt be caried in the morning, and in a calme day, that their bodyes be not weakned with heate, nor with the ſharpneſſe of the winde, and ſpecially of Auſtur. Take alſo diligent heede that the Tubbes wherein you carry your frie, be not filled aboue meaſure, for thereby it may happen that through the multitude, and fretting one againſt an other, the Carpes be vnſcalled, and ſo in danger of death. And for this cauſe, the cunninger and expearter men deuide their Tubbes into

Caryi ng of Frie.

equall partes, and fill the one halfe with water, and the other with Carpe, and so carry them without danger whither they list. No lesse heede ought to be taken in emptying the Tubbes, for then also Carpes are in danger, if they be rashly cast out of them either on the earth, or on the slime: wherefore it is very necessarie, and for the preseruation of the Fish, to holde a linnen cloth or a nette, before the mouth of the Tubbe, and so to receiue the Fish, slyding downe by lytle and lytle, and then to cary them to that place where the water is somewhat deepe and cleere, and there spread abrode thy nette, and giue them libertie to swimme away of their owne accorde. And because it is more expedient for vs to preserue and nourish the best kinde of Carpe, I will shew you the signes and tokens thereby to choose them.

The ordering Frie after the carriage.

The tokens and markes to choose good Frie by, before they be put into Pondes. Cap. 4.

WE must take diligent heede in choosing of Carpes Frie, least an olde Fish for a young, a bastard for a right kinde, vnawares escape our handes, and so deceiue vs both of our profite and expectation: the markes therefore be these. A small head, rowlling eyes, a large and thicke belly, the finnes and scalles neither muddy nor wanne, but glistering and white: and to conclude, a body like vnto a foure square, and not long: for if the head be great, the belly slender and small, or full of vntimely frie, the scalles pale, this is an olde Fish, and not of the right kinde, and ought not be put into Pondes, because it will neither be fat, nor yet grow to any greatnesse. Oftentimes it happeneth, that a true and right Carpe changeth his kinde, if he change the better place for the worse: because he changeth his first foode. Therefore when we buy him out of the doores, we must obserue the Fish-maisters prouerbe, whereby we are admo-

admonished to put our bought Frie into the seconde water: that is as much to say, to take it from the higher into the playner place, from the colder vnto a warmer, from a barren into a more fertile place: By this meanes we shall haue both fatte & dayntie Carpes. We must also put into our Pondes a certaine and iust number of Carpes.

The number of Carpes that ought to be in euerie Ponde. Cap. 5.

After the signes and true tokens of choosing good Carpe, orderly followeth the certaine number that ought to be attributed to euery Ponde according to his quantitie and greatnes: for if you ouercharge your Pondes with a greater number then may there be nourished and fed, you shall burden your selfe also with greater charges; for as through want of meate, they wilbe both leane and thin: so lesse must your price and gaine be. Againe, yf there lacke any of the iust number, there followeth an other discommoditie: which both inconueniences may be remedied by attributing to euery Ponde his iust number. For what is the cause I pray you, that in this poynt Fish breeders ought to giue place, and learne of the Husbandmen and planters of Vineyardes: but, because as the Husbandman obserueth a certaine quantitie of Corne in sowing of his grounde; so do the Fish breeders obserue in their Pondes a number of Fish: and as the one doth sow his ground by ỹ acre, so doth th'other fill his Pondes. But heere is to be noted, that an acre in Pondes is both longer & larger, then is th'other acre of playne ground: for an acre in the feeldes is in length, 12. cordes, and onely two in breadth: but th'other in Pondes, containeth euery way, 20. cordes: (what the length of euery corde is, we haue before declared.) So that if then thy Ponde containe an acre,

according to his peculiar rate, it will sufficiently well nourish and feede (if the soyle be fat and fertile) fiftie times sixtie, that is. 3000. Carpes. This number of Fish must onely be in those Pondes when the soyle is fatte: for if it be not so good, then there must be fewer: if it be leane and barren, then fewest of all; and so foorth in lesser Pondes fewer. Euery part of an acre after his iust proportion, must haue a greater and lesser number, according as the nature of the place requireth. Fish-maisters mooued by good reason, before all other numbers, do reckon their Carpes and Pikes by the number of three score. The reason that mooueth them is this, Because the number of three score may easelyest by Arithmeticall demonstration be deuided into many partes. And what a commoditie this is in buying or selling of Fish, either by grosse numbers or by partes, it is euident enough to all men: for if first you deuide three score into two partes, there resteth. 30. the. 3. part is. 20. the. 4. part. is. 15. the. 5. part is. 12. the. 6. part is. 10. and so further in proceeding: the. 10. part is. 6. the. 12. part is. 5. the. 15. part is. 4. the. 20. part is. 3. the. 30. part is. 2. vntill you come vnto the last part of three score, which ending in an vnion, can not be deuided any further into any whole part. And therefore when you take Fish out of your Pondes, whether you take many or few, you shall obserue no better and more conuenient a number, then is this number of three score. Besides this, amongst many commodities, there is one most chiefly to be imbraced: and that is, that the Nurse-pondes ought alwayes be made about the owners house, for hereby commeth great profite to the Fish breeders.

A thrif-

A thriftie Housholder will haue his Nurse-pondes at home in his owne yarde. Cap. 6.

CATO geueth a worthy precept, how an Housholder ought to be a seller, and no buyer: For if none other reason mooued him so to do, but onely the increase of his Frie, it were sufficient enough, for then he shall neuer be constrayned to buy his Frie of other men, but alwayes at home by his endustrie and labour, shall haue store of his owne: yet many mo reasons there are; for when the Pondes are in his owne ground, he may either cull out the best, or reserue the best, at his pleasure. And he may when he thinketh good, fysh his Pondes, and remoone his Frie from Ponde to Ponde, when time of yeere serueth: But so he can not doe when he hyreth his Pondes in other mens ground, for then must he be at the owners appoyntment, and fysh at his leasure, and not when we will our selues. He will cull out the best for him selfe, and leaue the worst, saying, What sir? I loue my selfe best. Sometimes it happeneth, that neither for money we can buy, nor for loue can borrow of our neighbour any young Fish. Some times againe, if it so happen we heare of any, better it were to leaue vnbought, then to buy: because commonly they be mingled with olde and parched Frie. And againe, What will the cariage cost? What will the charges amount vnto? And what other inconueniences may happen, as often times you see happen vnto trauellours? Do they not heape mischiefe vpon mischiefe? And none for this is to be blamed but our selues, because we haue not our Pondes as we ought to haue about our owne house: for then we should lyue in quiet, both from all labour and trauell, and of the surplussage gaine more to at the yeeres end. Virgill most wisely counselleth vs to prouide for increase and continuance, when he sayth,

Such thinges as are amisse, and want their wonted strength,

Amende betime; delay them not, least all be nought at length.
For then you come too late, when that the steede is stolne,
To keepe fast shut within the doore, that erst you haue forlorne.
And see you come in time (in minde this precept beare)
To choose & cull from out the heard, the younglings euery yeare.

The situation and placing of the Nurse Pondes. Cap. 7.

THe Nurse-ponde kept and preserued for the young Frie, must not be so curiously chosen as the place for the greater Pondes is, wherein the great and well growen Fish are fed and nourished: for such Pondes may be made in euery narrowe place, whereto any water or moysture may easely be brought. And this place must not be very large, nor lying too open vpon the Sunne, neither must the soyle of it be too fertile or pleasant, because the Nurse-pondes are onely made to preserue the young Frie in for a time, and afterwarde are to be remooued into a better and more fatter feeding. Note also this by the way, that the place appoynted for Nurse-pondes be sandy and not myerie: because that Carpes Frie by rubbing one against the other, doe often times fall downe into the myer, and there sticking fast, for want of taking breath, are choaked with the myer: and for this cause they like and liue best in deepe sandes. And for the forme and fashyon of the Nurse-pondes, they are almost like vnto the greater Pondes, as in the ramper of earth, the valley, the fence, the sluce, and the hedges: onely differing in this point, that as the Nurse-pondes be lesse in quantitie, so they require lesse labour and charges. The more ye haue of these Nurse-pondes, the greater shall your choyce be of such Carpes as shall be most apt

and

and meete for increase and fatnes: for in some Pondes a Carpe will onely breede, in other some onely increase and grow, and in other onely feede and waxe fatte: and for this cause, the Carpe must haue change of Pondes.

Of Pondes that are parted into three seuerall particions. Cap. 8.

AS Plautias, and other like excellent Paynters (Varro affirming it) vsed great Chistes full of tilles, therein seuerally putting their diuers cullers: so in our large and ample feeldes, it is as conuenient for vs to haue Pondes with many particions, that the Fish young in yeeres, & weake in strength, may be separated from the bigger & stronger. And this is the profitablest poynt belonging to Fish-breeders, so to dispose their Frie, that they can redily tell in what Pondes the Frie of the first, seconde, and thirde yeeres are contayned, and to what Ponde euery one according to his age may be transported. This also profiteth much the Fish: for then they soonest come to their iust perfection, when they be matched with theyr equalles. To this ende and purpose threefolde Pondes are sufficient enough. The fyrst must be for the Frye of the fyrst yeere, and must be the least Ponde of all: because the least Fishes are therein. The seconde for the Frie of two yeeres growth, must be greater. The thyrde and last, must be greatest of all, for that all such Fish as is preserued for fatteyng, are put therein. Euery one of these Pondes must be rated after the quantitie and bignesse: for into the least Ponde we put of the female kinde sometimes but .3. sometimes .9. and sometimes .15. because Carpe is very fruitfull, and ingendreth with lucy celeritie, as it seemeth in a manner almost incredible.

How Carpes and Pikes do ingender both alike. Cap. 9.

THe ingendring Carpes, our common people do call Terdellones, because, after the nature of manie Fish by beating one against the other, by mutuall touching of each other, & by the hard rubbing of each others bellies, they doe the acte of generation: and this acte is done in the monethes of Aprill or May: In the which monethes, when the water waxeth warme, then beginnes their desire, which so styrreth and tickleth them, that duering all that time, the male is full of milkish moysture, that pressing his belly neuer so lightly with your hand, he will shed his seede of generation. The female kinde also about this time, sheweth great signes and tokens of desire, for her belly is bigger with spawne then before it was accustomed to be. Shee also earnestly pursueth the male, making speede to be deliuered of her spawne. Aristotle in his. 6. Booke of his Naturall historie writeth, That the Female often times soloweth. 12. or. 14. Males: and if by hap she meetes them not, then she enflamed with a naturall desire, goeth foorth and seeketh them, to the intent to strike with their heades the bellies of the Males, and so driue out the seede of generation, and giue life to their young spawne: for except the spawne be sprinkled with the seede of generation, they receiue no life. And this is the onely cause why all in so great a company lyue not; for els both Seas and Pondes would not holde them (as Plinie sayth) Because euery Female conceaueth an innumerable companie. The same Aristotle affirmeth, That the spawne of Carpes once touched with the fruitefull seede of generation, doth the same day encrease to the bignesse of Mullet seede. When Carpes are of three yeeres

grouth,

grouth, they then begin to breede, & so continew mo then 30. yeeres. Heere we must diligently note and take heede, least at any time during the spawning season, any Pearch or Pike by vnawares come into our Pondes: because the Pearch will deuower them as soone as they be spawned: and the Pike will inuade them as soone as they haue taken lyfe. The ingendering of the Carpes and Pikes are all one: that is to say, they ingender by the like rubbing of their bellies, sauing that the Pike beginneth sooner: to wit, about the equinoctiall Spring time.

Whether Carpes spawne but once in Pondes, or oftner, as he doth in the Sea? Cap. 10.

THere were diuers and sundry Aldermen Fishmaisters (such as Cicero calleth Trytones, Gods of the Sea) sitting at my Maister Stanislans table, amongst whose communication that onely was worthy of report or commendation that touched Pondes: in the which when they beganne to be somewhat earnest, one amongst them asked this question, Whether the Carpe spawned but once in the yeere, or oftner? To this answered his next companion. Mee thinkes the Carpe spawneth but once in the yeere, as the Pike and many other Fish doe. How happeneth it then (asketh the demaundant) that in Nurse-pondes we oftentimes finde diuersitie of Frie, of two, yea of three seuerall bignesses? The other made answere, that this varietie happened, not because Carpes spawned oftner then once in the yeere, but because some of the Frie was sooner, and some later spawned. All men praysed his reason, & the rather so, for that I sitting also among them, confirmed his opinion by a like example of a Tunne, affirming that Aristotle

sayth, How the Tunie spawneth onely once in the yeere: But because thee sometimes sooner and sometimes later spawneth, some men holde opinion, that in the same yeere she spawneth two times. When I had thus finished my tale, a curious and vaineglorious fellow, obiected thus. If Carpes spawne but once in a yeere, I would then gladly know the reason why not onely in Pondes where there are but few Carpes (for of such I speake) some are greater then other: but also in such Pondes where one male is coupled with one female, we finde two or three sortes of Frie, and at diuers times procreated? The ghuelle with this cast into a dumpe, and hauing nothing to answere, he proceeded in his talke, affyrming (him selfe throughly perswaded) that the Carpe spawned three times in a yeere: and that he would not contende with any man, but that also she might spawne in Autumne; for at that time also her belly is bigge with young: but certayne I sure he was, that Frie to be degenerated and procreated without life. If this his saying be true, Why doth Oppianus say, That Carpes fiue times, and Aristotle sixe times, without spot or wemme do spawne in the Sea? Were they moued so to say, because the desire of those that liue at libertie aboue in the Sea is of greater force, then of those that liue as captiues in Pondes? or because the nature of the place helpeth their fertilitie? To this Aristotle him selfe maketh answere in his. 5. Booke of the nature of Beastes, when he sayth: The diuerse situation of the Countrey, and the diuersitie of places, do not onely helpe and auayle much that Fish increase oftner in one place then in an other, euen as Trees and Bushes doe: but also the selfe same Fish in some places oftner doe the acte of generation, and bring foorth, and in other some seldomer. I haue spoken too much already of Carpes, therefore I will more briefly speake of Pikes.

At what time of the yeere Pikes ought to be put into Pondes. Cap. 11.

AS good Gardners suffer no weeder to goe vpon their new set beddes, before they see them choaked with vnprofitable weedes, for otherwise the weeder shall as soone spoyle the good with his feete, as roote out the badde: euen so must we be diligent and very wary, not to put Pikes (the bane and enemie of Carpes) into our Pondes before the time of yeere requireth. And then to, not into euery Ponde, but onely into that of the thirde sort: that is to say, the greatest of all, where often times through the plentifull breeding of the greater Carpes, such abundance and number of Frie is, that the Pondes are not able to minister foode vnto them all. Therefore this is the fittest and aptest time of all the yeere to put in your Pikes, that they with open mouth may deuoure and feede vpon the new bred Frie. Note also heere, that according to the bignesse of the Ponde, and multitude of Frie, moe or fewer Pikes be put therein: for this admission of the male or female, must haue also his restraint, because that Pikes feeding on Carpes frie, increses as well in multitude as in bignesse, and so the greater Pikes are solde for more money: for I remember very well that. 60. Pikes thus bred and fed, were solde in Morauia for. 40. Crownes, when Sigismundus King of Pool-land with his royaltie and princely trayne (for he was accompanied with 3000. Horse) came from Gracouia vnto Vienna, to the Emperour Maximilian, and vnto Vladislaum his brother ierman, King of Hungarie and Bohemia, and there by the way was entertayned of my Maister Stanislanus at Crensiris. I must needes confesse, that at this time I can not redily giue a reason, why as well in Pondes where no Pike can come in by gutter or ditch, as in Pondes that are filled with raine water, the Pike is founde, vn put-in of man.

Certaine opinions of the voluntarie breeding of Pikes in Pondes. Cap. 12.

IT is neither the reasons which the Philosophers make concerning the voluntarie breeding of Pikes, that likes me: neither will I make mention of the opinion that our common Fish-breeders holde, but had rather vse the opinions of Idiottes and Fooles, then to be so bolde as to affirme with Atheneus and Philarchus, Philosophers, that Fish some times raines out of the Element with the water. This kinde of raine verely neuer happened with vs. But of this I am sure, that Ducklinges doe some times flie vnto our Pondes to gorge them selues on the frie of Carpe or Pike: and therefore it seemes nearest vnto the trueth (as our Fish-maisters suppose) that when the Ducklinges bellies be full of such frye, and yet raw, doe vomite them againe into the Pondes, and so with the cast out Frie, the Pikes do also liue. Those men will much maruell at this, that neuer read the like of Partriges in Plinie, borrowing it of Aristotle. The female Partriges (sayth he) standing ouer against the male, by breathing one vpon the other, doe waxe great: and all the while they gape with their tongues out, continue their desire: and also doe conceiue by the breathing of the Malles that flie ouer them; and often times to, by the onely call of the Male. Thus farre hath Plinie. I will adde vnto this the saying of M. Varro concerning Mares, if it please you to heare. In the time from conception vnto birth bearing (sayth hee) in *Spayne*, happeneth a strange thing, yet most true: for in *Lusitania* about the Ocean Sea, in that part of the Countrey where the towne *Olyssippo* is situated, certaine Mares doe con-

conceiue of the Winde, as also Heath-hennes doe, whose egges are called *Hypenemia*, that is to say in English, Egges that proues not vnder a Henne, or other birdes. I will speake nothing of the inhabitauntes about the River Boristhenes, who as often as they come vnto vs, consent altogether in one tale without any disagreeing, and they affirme, that very seldome they replenish and stoze their Pondes (after they be once drawen or fyshed) with any new Frie. Belike they breede againe of the earthly moysture, or els doe fall downe with the heauenly raine. But because I will not be tedious to some, in declaring of these new and vnaccustomed opinions, I will heere ende, and in my next Booke will intreate of other matters concerning Pondes.

The ende of the thirde Booke.

THE PREFACE TO The fourth Booke.

IT is no leſſe laudable and prayſe worthy to defende thinges gotten, then it is in obtaining of them: and for as much as hitherto in all theſe our three former bookes we haue diligently laboured in ſeeking and getting of Pondes, now it onely reſtes, that in theſe two other Bookes, we foreſee leaſt our wel gotten Pondes, be without good effect ill ſpent: the which may very ſoone happen, if we lacke ſuch neceſſarie knowledge as belongeth and appertaineth to the preſeruation of Pondes. For this conſideration, I will firſt ſhew what, and how we ought to doe in preſeruing and keepeing our Pondes as they ought to be kept: and then no doubt, but our labour and paynes will come to good ſucceſſe. The Rules that euery ouerſeer of Pondes ought to follow, are gathered out of certaine preceptes which our Fiſh-maiſters haue by experience obſerued: All which preceptes and Rules, we in this our fourth Booke will open in order, as the foure tymes of the yeere ſhall require, that thereby euery Ponde keeper may know his dutie ſeuerally in all the foure times of the yeere: that is to wit, in the Spring time, in Sommer, in Harueſt, and in Winter. And firſt of all, before we enter into any other matters, we will declare the duetie of a Pondekeeper.

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The ductie and office of a Pond-keeper. Cap. 1.

SVch as haue care and charge ouer Pondes, ought in especiall, to haue regarde vnto three thinges. The first of these three pertaineth to the water, the second to the Fish, and the third and last vnto the Pondes. The first of these three, that is, concernyng the Water, is also deuided into three necessary Rules therein to be obserued. The first is, that Pondes neuer want sufficient and necessary moysture. The seconde, that Inundations and tempestes of raine neuer hurt the Damme or Rampier of earth. The last, that in long standing of the water vndrawen, doe not cause a rotten sauour and filthinesse. In the seconde member touching Fish, these thinges are to be foreseene and taken heede of: first, that the Fish kept for store, bread in the nurse Pondes at their due time and season. Secondly, that ye remooue and transport the Frie in his due time and season. Thirdly, that the Pond-keeper do warely and charely carry and handle the Frie. Fourthly, that he giue a iust note vnto his Maister of the number of Fish that was put into euery Ponde. And lastly, that the Fish be well fed and nourished in Pondes: for water doth not alwayes nourish them, but sometimes must be relieued by mens industrie and labour: for as common experience hath taught vs, how the tillage of Feelds and Vineyardes, how the felling of Trees, and the

breeding of Cattle, do not so much prosper by their owne nature, as they do by mans trauell and paynes: euen so by experience, we may see the like in keeping and breeding of Carpes in Pondes. Of all which Pondes (for in his place I will onely speake of them) the keeper with good aduisement and deliberation must view euery place diligently, to be sure that nothing needes amendement and reperation: for there is alwayes some wracke in Pondes, made either with windes, or with tempestes, or with violence of the water, which must of force be amended. The keeper must also be diligent in keeping away Foule, Cattle, and Men, which do often times much harme to Pondes: For when the keeper is absent, sometimes Cormorants (whereof there be manie kindes) and sometimes Otters, doe freely without all feare, destroy the Fish. Also Swine, Oxen, and Horses, allured thyther for foode sake, treades downe and marres the banckes. Some times also naughtie and ill disposed Shepardes pluckes vp the fenses that inclose the Fish, that thereby as the Fish passeth through, they might take them: For the auoyding of all those mischiues, the good and trustie keeper will neuer be from thence, but euer be searching, least some deceite be wrought about the Pondes. And it is not the propertie of a diligent seruant, to walke about his Ponds to the intent onely to set a good face, and beare men in hand he were diligent, when as in deede his wittes are wandering els where, and his minde more delighted with the pleasantnesse of the feeldes, or more occupied with other toyes of his owne inuention, then it is with the looking vnto of his Maisters gaynes and profite that commeth by Pondes. And now for that we haue spoken of the Keepers duetie in generall, we will shew further what his office is in especiall.

Of

Of the Spring time. Cap. 2.

The Spring time of all the yeere is most busie, and therfore it troubleth the Keepers minde with many and diuers doubtes: the which he must with such deliberation and aduisement so moderate and vse, that he first absolue & finish all such thinges as wil abide no delay without greater discommoditie and hinderance: and after, other thinges when time serueth. As for example, the fensings about the trenches, hedges, and other inclosures, will not be deferred. And therefore as soone as the Spring time shall offer opportunitie, he must prouide for the mending of such thinges as haue been impayred by tempestes the Winter before, or els are made faultie through age and antiquitie. When this is done, he must clense the furrowes, ditches and brookes, by the which snow and raine had their passage into the Pondes. After he in this sort hath finished his water worke, he must distribute the young Frie into their appoynted places: for (as I haue sayd before) the Spring tide is the best time of the yeere to remooue and translate the frie. And the Keeper must more diligently watch his Ponds in the night then in the day: because Carpes hauing a greater desire in the night then in the day, it is no hard matter to take them: for they being then blinded with loue, do runne by heapes one vpon an other, wandring a stray by the bancke sides and shallow places. Here I will giue an admonishment to euery Keeper, that he in the Spring time, as often as he doth perceiue the weather ouercast and likely to raine, doe set open the sluses and flood-gates of his greatest Pondes, that with the raine water, the slyme and doung of the feeldes may also come into the Pondes: for there is no foode more acceptable to Carpes, then that is, neyther none other that

makes him sooner fat and thicke. To this is annexed an other commoditie: to wit, that with the feelde waters strange Fish comes into our Pondes without any cost and labour to vs: for all the while that water is puer and cleere, very seldome or neuer, any new and strange Fishe come thyther.

Of Sommer. Cap. 3.

COntrarie (in a maner) to these former preceptes, the Keeper must do in Sommer season: And amongst many thinges, he especially must be sure, that all fenses and sluses about the Pondes, be shut and close from all running water: for in Sommer the Carpe desyreth most of all to liue at quiet and rest, because at that time, with pleasant and sweete foode they are fatted, if so be they may feede quietly: for Carpes increase not when they labour and wander abrode, but when they lie quietly without any stirring: and therefore during this season, all fenses and inclosinges must be shut vp, least through the flowing and running in of fresh and new water, the Carpe rather stray abrode then feede. And because no man shall thinke, but that other Fish as well as Carpes, do prosper and waxe fatte with quietnesse, I will shew some examples out of Plinie, who sayth, That at *Cadara*, an Isle of the red Sea, Beastes through the great tranquilitie and quietnes of the place, grow into an hudge bignes: and *Tunis* into such fatnes, that they burst againe. But looke how much as running water is hurtful and enemie vnto Carpes in Sommer, so much acceptable and pleasant is raine water, gently and softly descending downe. And of this water also Plinie writeth thus. And againe, Fish are delighted and increase with small shewers: for Reedes though they grow in Marishes, yet without raine they grow not: and therfore when as Fish are kept in one continuall water, except it

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raine there, they become faynt and out of breath. And for as much as mention is made in this Chapter of Foode and Reedes, we will first declare what maner of foode is best for Carpes: and after that, shew by what meanes Reedes are weeded out.

Of Foode. Cap. 4.

ALthough all Fishes haue their greatest part of nauriſhment in the water, yet there are ſome meates proper and peculiar to euery kinde of Fiſh. For Ariſtotle ſayth, That Congers, Lampries, and Woolfes, doe onely eate Fiſh. Mullets feedes on Fiſh and Sea weedes, Goldins feedes only of Sea weedes, Stockfiſh on Sea weedes and doung, Codfiſhes on ſlyme, (and omitting other Fiſhe pertaining nothing to purpoſe) our Carpe feedeth on ſlyme and ſande: and although he feedes not on the fleſh of Fiſh, yet he ſo egerly purſueth long round Woormes which creepes out of the banckes, Gnattes and Flyes that fly ouer the water, that if you walke quietly by the banckes and harken attentiuely, you ſhall heare him ſnatch after them. Such men as write moſt at large of Carpes feeding, call this kinde of foode ſome times *æſtiua. 1.* pertayning to Sommer, and ſome times *ſupernas. 1.* in the vpper part, becauſe in Sommer they either creepe vpon the ground, or elſe flye and play ouer the water. The other, Slyme and Sande, ſuch as Carpes feede on in the bottome of the Ponde, they call *infernas. 1.* that which is below or in the nether part, becauſe it lyeth there: and furthermore they adde, that Carpes are ſooner fatted by the firſt kinde of meate, to wit, *ſupernas*, then by this laſt *infernas*, prouing it by good reaſon, becauſe ſuch thinges as be eaten with more pleaſure and ſweetenes, doe nouriſh and feede more tenderly. It is not to be doubted, but in Winter when they lurke in deepe places, they feede alſo on earth, for as

much as the places wherein they lie are found made hollow, as Swine are wont to make hollow their wallowing places. The common sort of people doe inclose their Carpes in Weeres, and there feede them with Graynes. Potters clay also dyed a litle by the fyer, and annoynted ouer with the lees of oyle, maketh fatte Carpes, and is much better then corne. And here we may much maruell at the diligence of Plinie, whom the oyly sauce (wherein some times Fish is fryed) could not escape: but he writeth very briefly, and as it were but glauncing at it. With the taste of Oyle (sayth he) they be most of all nourished. After this their foode, they couet and desire small shewers.

How to destroy Reedes. Cap. 5.

REedes for the most part after much raine, if the ground be fertile & fatte, and the Pondes very shallow, do grow with more speede: and after they haue once taken fast roote, they poyson all the best foode of Carpes, lying about the shallowe places and banckes of Pondes. Sometimes also, if there be but small store of water therein, they spread and runne ouer all the Ponde: for the deeper and greater that the water is, the lesse power they haue to take any roote. And therefore cunning and expeart Keepers will be sure, that either their Pondes alwayes haue their iust filling, or els be cleane dry and voyde of all moysture. This weede once hauing taken roote, is very hurtfull in Pondes, but especially in feeding time, and it is also very hard to roote it out, and destroy it vtterly: for if you mow or cut it downe, it growes greater: if you burne it, it groweth thicker: or if you attempt to plucke it vp by the rootes with your handes, you shall as soone breake it in peeces, as plucke it vp: yea, it is a very hard matter to plough it vp, because the roote groweth deepe in the ground, and are tyed so fast

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the one to the other: and therefore I will shew one way how to destroy it. In Sommer solstise row ouer all your Ponde, and with a sharpe Sickle cut downe the Reedes so short, that the knottes and staulkes of them may be hidden vnder the water: for by this meanes it commeth to passe that the hollownesse of the Cane drinking vp the water, made hot with the Sunne, shall wyther away euen as it had dronke poyson. Plinie in his. 18. Booke of his naturall Historie, entreating of the secret and mutuall passion of one thing to the other, doth admonish vs to mow downe Fearne-brakes with a Sith: His wordes be thus. Men say Fearne-brakes pluckt vp about the solstise of the Sunne, or mowed downe amongst Reedes, or eared vp Reedes, being layed vpon the Coulter of the Plough, doe neuer grow againe: So contrariwise, they will & commaund vs to eare vp Reedes with Fearne-brakes, laide vpon the Coulter of the Plough. To this I will adde an other saying of Plinie, concernyng the rooting out and destroying of Woodes, because often times we make Pondes in wooddy places. He sayth thus, (folowing therein Democritus) Woodes are destroyed with the flower of *Lupinis*, one day being steeped in the iuce of Hemlocke, and so sprinckled and cast vpon the rootes. This had been sufficient concerning Sommer waters, but that in Sommer Carpes are some times diseased.

Solstice.

Note.

Brakes, or Fearne.

Woodes.

The diseases of Carpes, Cap. 6.

PLinie also sayth in his. 9. Booke, That no kind of Fish feeles diseases, though they be all subiect to diseases: And that they be often times sicke, the leannes of some do shew, when other some of the same kind shalbe taken, very fatte. Of the Fish Silurus thus he sayth: Silurus is blasted at the rising of the Dogge Starre, and some times

Dogge starre.

is cast into a sleepe with lyghtning. Some men holde opinion, that the like happeth to Carpes that be in the Sea: for no doubt but Carpes in Pondes are stroken and made leane with the force of that starre, and some times also are cast into a sleepe without all remedie: but then most in especiall, when they be touched and stroken with such kinde of lyghtning as will drinke out the moysture in tunnes, not touching the heades: and will kill a childe in a womans wombe, the woman remayning aliue, and without any other herme. But as often as Carpes are not diseased with the blasting of this starre, but otherwise through the corruptnes and filthinesse of the water, or els through want of water, then for remedie hereof, let runne into your Pondes both fresh, and also a greater quantitie of water. For Aristotle the diligent searcher out of the nature of Beastes, affirmeth, That Fish do as well die, if they be kept too long in a litle water (as other Beastes do) there shut vp where litle ayre may come vnto them. Or if your Carpes be in great danger or peryll by any other meanes not yet rehearsed, as with Long-wort, the roote of Rape Violet, which the Greekians call ἰχθυοκτόνον, or the milke of the hearbe Spurge, which some call Gote Lettice, and Cornelius calles it Sea lettice, cast into your Pondes, then must you also change and renew your water. Some men say, that if a man write vpon his body with the milke of Spurge, and being sunke and dyed in to the skinne, with ashes throwen vpon the writing, the letters will so apparantly appeare, that a meane reader may easely reade them. Further more, Hartwort is a great destroyer of Fish: Plinie sayth, how he saw certaine Fishermen of Campania bruse it, and mingle it with Chaulke, and so cast the same into the Sea, on the which Fish tasting, all amased, swame aboue the water. The bitter iuce of Hempe is also deadly for Fish: and because we haue plentie of such Hempe in our Countrey, we forbade by a penall Law, that no man shall water his Hempe nigh vnto any Ponde. On the contrary side, Parselie or Smallage is very

Not fysh and flesh.

Titimiulum.

Hartwort.

Hempe.

holsome

holsome for sicke Fish, as Plinie in his. 20. Booke writeth: Sicke Fish (sayth he) are recreated and refreshed with greene Parselie or Smallage, throwen into Pondes. Now we will proceede to Autumne. For sicke fishe

Of Autumne. Cap. 7.

IF you delay your Autumne fyshing vnto the Spring time, then the pastime in birding shall delight you a great deale more: then shall your labour, trouble and vexe you. For about this time of the yeere Duckes and Geese will haunt your Pondes, and offer vnto you much pleasure: For I my selfe haue taken great delight in beholding the Fowlers comming from the ponds, to heare them tell their Maisters how many, and after what sort they haue taken their Duckes and Geese: and how againe for their endeuour and diligence, their Maisters would not onely prayse them, but also liberally reward them, encouraging them thereby, an other time to take like paynes and labour. But as this pertayneth not altogeather to the office of a keeper, so there is one thing peculiar and incident vnto his charge, for the which if he prouide in time, it shall much auayle and profite the increase of Carpes: and that is this. Before the beginning of Winter, he must let out all that water that couereth the sides of the Pondes, in so much that they may lie bare and naked, to the intent that they being dryed, may be fastened and made harde, to resist the Winter shewers and freezinges. And yet he must beware least with the superfluous water, he also let out the necessarie: for it is much better to lacke this fastening

of the ground, then to hazarde the Fish through want of water, especially if Winter approch, which most commonly bringeth with it thicke Ice and deepe Snow. In Autumne also, falleth many great shewers, and therefore he must prouide and be diligent, that against euery such stormе, his channels, ditches, and his sluses, be open, least through the sodaynnesse of the tempest, great hurt doth also ensue.

Of Winter. Cap. 8.

A deuourer of Ice.

THough the Kings-fysher seemeth about the Winter season to haunt Pondes, yet in very deede she doth not. And though some men also suppose that Ice offereth ease and quietnesse to the keepers, because it inclooseth the Pondes rounde about, and keepeth the Fish so surely in, that they can neither get out, or be stolen out: yet in very deede it threatneth great danger, for with the waight and thicknes therof often times the Fish are choaked, because they are not able to draw and take their breath: for ye shall often see Ice in Pondes of two foote thicknes, and some times more, and vpon the Ice Snow lying as deepe; which both, take all ayre from the Fish: for this cause the Keeper must be diligent in shoueling away of the Snow, and in many places breaking the Ice with an Axe: that as the furrowes and shallow places so heawed and broken, the Fish may be recreated with fresh and new ayre. It is a manifest and apparant signe, that the Carpes be weake, if they gather togither in plumpes about the opened furrowes: for the whole and sounde either neuer appeare, or if at any time they do, they sodainely againe choppe away. At such a time there can be nothing better, then to let in new water, which may driue out the olde. I haue often times seene when the olde water had been let out, and not sufficient of new water to

See dangerous Ice.

Ice to breake.

fill

fill the Pondes againe, how the ſicke Carpes ſwimming about the Pondes ſides, haue been taken with a Net, and caried to the next water to be refreſhed. But for as much as this is a hard matter to be done in great Ponds, where there be many Fiſh, the deuice of Petrus Roſenſis a noble man of Bohemia, and excellently well learned, will ſeeme the better. He inuented a kinde of ginne full of wheeles, which continually turning about in the Pondes, purged and made cleane all the filthynelle there comealed through long ſtanding: and by this meanes he refreſhed the Fiſh, weakoned with ill ſauours. Beſides this, the Keeper in Winter ſeaſon muſt be diligent in prouiding for cariage of ſuch neceſſarie thinges as ſhalbe neate and conuenient for mending of the Pondes, at ſuch time as the ſnow lyeth vpon the ground: and whyleſt that the Huſbandmen do vſe Drayes and Sleades, or other ſuch thing without wheeles, by the which the worke is ſooner ended then it is by cart cariage: for in the Spring time they are hardly won or byred from their Plough. I haue, I truſt, now ſufficiently ſpoken of ſuch thinges as are neceſſary for euery ſeaſon and time of the yeere.

The ende of the fourth Booke.

THE PREFACE TO The fifth Booke.

AS the laſt act of Commodies, ſo is this our. 5. or laſt acte of this our Booke of Fiſhing, more merrie and pleaſant, then the other. 4. becauſe the ende, which bringeth gayne and profite, is more delectable and acceptable to Fiſh-maiſters. For as the Huſband-man is nothyng ſorie for his Corne, nor the Vine dreſſer for his Grapes; but rather they both reioyce when they receiue fruite of them, to recompence their labours: So the Fiſh-maiſters, with the gayne ryſing of Fiſh (bringing to their purſes ſtore of money) doe bid their companions reioyce with the merrie clapping of handes. And firſt we will ſpeake of Fiſhing, and ſuch thinges as pertaine to Fiſhing: then how Fiſh are ſolde, and how olde Pondes are reſtored: laſt of all (for a concluſion) we will adde the Pondes of the Riuer *Sala*, becauſe the Riuers that flow about the red Caſtle, doe miniſter vnto vs great plentie of that kinde of Fiſh,

Of

Of the times of fyshing, and the Instrumentes that pertaine to the same. Cap. 1.

I Told you before in that place where I intreated of the transporting of Carpes frie, that two times of the yeare were onely best for to fyshe in: to wit, The Spring time, and Autumne; and which of these two were best. But whether you fyshe in the Spring time or in Autumne, see euermore you haue in a redines all thinges necessarie for fyshing before you begin: least of an ill beginning, succeedes a worse ending. But amongst all the thinges that pertaine to fyshing, the principallest is to haue at the least, two Dragges, one greater, and an other lesse. The greater must haue greater mashes, that the smaller Fish may goe through, and onely the greater remayne and be taken. The lesser must haue lesser mashes, to keepe and holde fast the Carpes frie, and other fishe of lesser bignes, and such fishe as Aristotle calleth χυτὰ, (that is) scatered abrode, because they euery where be taken with Netted. After ye haue thus taken your Fishe, you must also haue in a redinesse Boulles and vessels of two sortes: in the one to put your Carpes, in the other your Pikes, vntill such time as either they be there solde, or els caried in Cartes and Tunnes to some other Ponde or place: which Cartes and Tunnes must be also as ready as your Boulles: for the lesser fishe are kept & preserued well enough in Boughnets

and Baskets, and therefore ye must haue also your Boughnettes and Baskets: also a Stue and Serce boored full of holes, that the water may runne out thereat, and the Fishe remayne still within: for the often handling and touching annoyeth and hurteth them, and causeth them to be solde for lesse money. And because we sell our Fish altogether by measure and not by number, see also ye haue your measures ready at hand, as a Pitcher, a Gallond, & a maund. During all the fyshing time, the Keeper of the Ponds must haue some little Cottage made him of Straw or Reedes to lie in, and to watch the Pondes from robbing. Also along the banckes sides flakes must be in order pytched in, thereon to hang and dry the wet Nettes, least they through daily moysture do rotte before their time.

Of fyshing for Carpes and Pikes. Cap. 2.

ALl such thinges as I haue mentioned before, and all other necessaries to (if ought I haue forgotten) being in a readinesse, then let runne out so much water as shalbe sufficient. Beginne your fyshing in the morning, for at that time the Fishermen are more willing, the Fish are sooner taken, and also with lesse danger are touched and handled, because at that time the day is not hot with the Sunne. The oftner ye draw your Pondes, the more Fish ye shall take: for as Plinie sayth, Moe Fish are taken at the second draught, then at the first. His reason peraduenture is, because water being more troubled at the seconde, then at the first draught, doth so much blinde the eyes of the Fish, that they can not easely discerne the Nette.

The

The first Fish that are taken in the Nettes are most commonly Pikes, and those very great: for they in rauening after their pray do swimme aloft, and the greatest part of the Nette fleeteth aboue also, so that therefore they are soonest taken. Contrariwise it is of Carpes, for the smallest of them are first taken, and afterwarde the greatest: because they loue and liue in the bottome. And therefore the crafty and deceitfull Fisher-men doe shew their best Pikes at the first draught, and delay the taking of their greatest Carpes vntill their fyshing be almost finished, which then they shew to their buyers, dissembling and hyding the worse. It is a great argument that Carpes be wylie, and haue vnderstanding: for when they feare the Nettes, they sodaynely choppe their heades into the mudde, and so by the slipperneſſe of their tayle, they escape both the Nette and the Fisher-men. For as much as the Fisher-men doe hardly abstayne from taking out the Fishe with their handes, and are also impatient of long tarrying in the water, and therefore take small heede, but tread vnder foote the Carpes so hidden in the myre, they must often be admonished and called vpon to hasten and make an ende of fyshing. And nothing will sooner hasten the ende, then to haue your Nurse-pondes adioyning to your breeding Pondes: vnto the which, Porters vpon their shoulders or neckes, may carry the Fishe so taken, for Fattes and Boules, will neither receiue many, nor yet keepe them long in lyfe: Besides this to, they prolong the tyme of fyshing, which is a dangerous thing for Fysh.

Of

Of Store-pondes. Cap. 3.

IF the situation and commoditie of the place where your Pondes are made be such, that hard by them Store-pondes may also be made, then that place is excellent and good for the speedy carying and transposing of your Fish (as I haue tolde you before:) but if they can not be made there, yet giue not ouer, but rather choose some other place in some Meddow or Feelde, which alwayes may be within the view and kenning of the owner. Being once found, cause it to be digged. 2. cubites or more in deapth, and in length euery way. 22. cubites, as the commoditie of the place, and the number of Fish require: for according to the number of Fish, must also the Store-pondes be made. Euery Store-ponde must be so made, that rounde about, it be inclosed with Dammes and Banckes: and therefore they onely in this one poynt differ from other Pondes, in that they be euery where of like deapth, and inclosed round about with Banckes, when the other Pondes be for the most part open, and about the Banckes are shallow: as for the Sluses, Channels, and Hedges, which all restraine Fishe from going out, are to them in common with the other. To these Store-pondes some continual running water must haue recourse: for without continuall running of fresh and new water, the Carpes choked vp with the number, will not liue. About your Store-pondes make some fence of Hedge or Pale, to keepe them from robbing: for we make our Pondes, and keepe therein the Fish to the intent to sell them, and not to loose them. Sometimes also we keepe our Fish vntill the price be inhaunsed: and this sayth Cato in his Booke of Husbandrie, maketh vs more wealthy and worshypfull. We will now intreate of fyshing vnder the Ice.

The deapth of Pondes. 2. cubites, the length. 22. cubites.

How to fysh in frozened Pondes. Cap. 4.

IT is often seene, that in Lent time Pondes be frozen ouer, and some men there be, that euery yeere (by reason of the shorter and longer distance of their fatting dayes) do change their fyshing time: and therefore least this time of the yeere wherein wee haue most neede of Fish, be either deferred, or altogeather lost, because of the Ice, that meanes must be vsed, which as Aelianus sayth was once vsed of the olde Fisher-men: for in that place of his Booke where he intreateth of the Riuers Eridanus and Ister, he sayth thus: In these Riuers, being frozen, the Fishermen chose out some place full of windinges, and there did heaw the Ice with sharpe Axes; and remouing the same from thence, and the place like vnto a lake, then did cast thereinto their Dragge, and so after their accustomed maner did spread it abrode, and toke Fish. After the same sort doe our Fisher-men take Carpes in frozened Pondes: First they cut out the Ice foure square about the pleace where the Leapes, or such like lie, which commonly are throwen in at the entraunce of the Channell or Gutter: then they either breake the same Ice, or els remoone it, if it wilbe remooued: but if the thicknesse of the Ice doe hinder either of these wayes, then they let it alone vntouched: yet notwithstanding, they goe forwarde in fyshing: for at the open places they throw in their Nettes, which lie hid vnder the Ice. I hope I shall not be counted for an vnwise man, in that I onely purpose to shew or declare, and not for vaine glorie to bragge or boast of the wayes and meanes I vsed in this kinde of fyshing that Lent, when our most victorious Prince Ferdinandus King of Hungary, Bohemia, and Romans, with all his Nobilitie came to Znoyma there to consult on great and waighty affayres, Fish then began to be deare, and I purposing to preuent my neighbours in selling

of Fish before them, hyred Labourers to cut with Axes the Ice, which was one cubite in thicknesse. The worke went forwarde a pace, vntill such time as some of the workefolkes more forwarde in their worke then the other, vnawares broke the Ice in certaine places, so that the water running into the Gutters and Trenches, with the great sprincklyng of it hindered the other Labourers. Some gaue counsell to change the Axes with long helues, for Hatchets with shorter: other some wished for Pick-axes, to breake the Ice withall: both were brought, but to no purpose, for still continued the sprinckling and combersome delay. At length I bethought me on a Sawe, supposing that perhaps would bryng our purpose to an ende. Sawes were brought, which without any sprinckling some sawed in two the Ice, so that nothyng wanted but onely fyshing: and to finysh that to, the Fisher-men were very willing. The Nettes were cast vnder the Ice more often then once, but all was in vayne and to no purpose. Then some of the Fisher-men blamed the water, partly because the Ponde was too full of water, and partly agayne because it was so cleere, that the Fishe myght easely discerne how to auoyde the Nettes. Other some blamed the Plummettes as not heauie enough to sinke downe to the bottome where the Carpes were. Iron chaynes were added vnto the Plummettes, and harde by the Gutters and Channelles that were heawed out, holles were broken, that men through them with Pooles and Stakes, myght trouble and make thicke the water, for other wise to remoone them vp and downe from place to place (as wee ought to haue done) wee coulde not for the waightinesse of the Ice. Notwithstanding this ill fortune, we determined once agayne to renew our fyshing, but it prospered not, because our Pooles myght not freely in so thicke an Ice, trouble and muddie the water as they ought to haue done, and therefore I commaunded foure loades of Potters clay to be brought, & to be vnloded there where the Nettes were cast: it was done, and straight way the Fisher-

men

men cryed out, that either they drew vp the Clay, or els Carpes: and drawing their Nettes neere vnto the vancke sides, they drew out with great ioy moe then one hundred Carpes, and gaue great thankes vnto the water so troubled with the Clay. They cast in their Nettes once agayne, and it prospered well: and againe they threw them in the thirde time, but then they tooke nothing, because the Fish were all gone backe agayne vnder the Ice into the deepe places. It fortuned whilest the Fishe were going backe, and the Carters were driuing homeward their emptie Cartes, the Fishe-men threw in againe their Nettes, and tooke more Fyshe at that one draught, then they did before at two. They much marueyling at this sight, do call backe the Carters, and commaunde them in the meane tyme to driue ouer the Ice both Cart and Horse whylest they were a fyshing. What needes many wordes, that which by reason we could not before comprehende, by chaunce we bring to passe, and had a happy fyshing: for the Fyshe which before without all feare beganne to flye from the Nette, now what with noyse of the Horse, what with noyse of the shooes, and the Irons of the Cart wheeles, forgetting to flye to their lurking hooles, headlong ranne to destruction, and so were taken of our Fisher-men.

Cer-

Certaine reasons and causes vvhy in some *Pondes Carpes do better grow then in other some, and that sometimes so, both in one Ponde. Cap. 5.*

I Would haue no man doubt, but that amongst many causes, the chiefest and principallest is the nature of places: for seeing Nature is of such force, that she is able to make so great a varietie betweene mans body and his minde, Why should it be marueyled at, though she shew like varietie in Beastes? Thus writeth Cicero in his Booke of Fate: Let vs now see (sayth he) what great difference is in the nature of places; some are holsome, othersome are noysome: some are filthy and moyst, others are hard and dry: and many other thinges there be that maketh one place to differ from an other. At *Athens* the ayre is sharpe, and therefore men thinke the *Athenians* are sharpe witted. At *Thebis* the ayre is grosse, and therefore the *Thebans* are more grosse and strong: Thus farre Cicero. And no doubt but with like reason, we may suppose that Carpes in some places thriue better then in other some: The Bohemians challenge the first place: for say they, in Bohemia the best Carps are bred. The next place the Morauians challenge, & the third the Slesians. Besides the goodnes of the place, the water also much auayleth and helpeth forwarde the nourishment of Carpes: for sweete water is better then bitter; and warme water is better then colde. Likewise it is of earth: for cloddy and moyst earth, is better then parched and sandie. Also chicke ayre, sometimes shewerie or rainie, is better then that which is alwayes

rayne

raynie or dry. Likewise a place that is stonie, shallow, and quiet from windes, breedeth moe and better Carpes, then that place which is shadowed, troublesome, and deepe, thorow the which the Sunne beames can not pearce. Of the Sunne I make heere mention, because as Theophrastus sayth, He with his heate maketh all thinges better and sweeter, as well all such thinges as are vnder the earth, or hidden vnder the water, as all those thinges which are aboue and vpon the face of the earth. The other reason why in one and the selfe same Ponde some Carpes are better then other some: partly the inequalitie of the Frie brought out of diuerse Nurse-pondes, and put iointly in one, is cause: partly also, that soyle wherein they feede in some place of the Ponde it being more fatte and fyttie, in other some more barren and leane, is also a cause. And sometimes againe, the disposition and nature of Carpes are changed by some certaine and peculiar affection: the cause wherefore it should so be, is altogeather vnknowen and hidden from vs. Of a like matter vnto this, the same Theophrastus maketh mention, when he intreateth of Monogena, and such thinges as are called by one name, because some of them seeme very fyttie, and other some very barren: as of the Elme tree, one of them is more fruitfull then an other: so it is of the Elder tree: and yet they both are greene and in good plight. I thinke no man so ignorant, but rather knoweth very well, how that Pondes which are first replenished with Frie, doth breede Carpes better, both for the bignes of the body, and sweetnes of the taste, then those wherein Carpes are later put.

How often times Pondes must be fished in, whether twice in one yeere, or once in two yeere. Cap. 6.

WE vse commonly euery second yeere to fysh our Carpe pondes: for in one Sommer, neither can the Frie of two yeeres grouth, nor yet of three yeeres, sufficiently increase, but at the least they must haue two yeeres to feede and increase in. This order (as I haue sayd before) is exactly obserued of our Fisher-men: notwithstanding this common custome, my M. Stanislaus, being of long time the first and only man that had Pondes in all Morauia at the towne Medricius, did as it were euery yeere sow and reape his fallow land, which of right ought to haue been sowen but euery other yeere. He had also in like maner diuers other woyser Pondes at his Castle and Towne called Wischouo, which onely were preserued and kept for Nurse-pondes: and he so deuided those Pondes, that euery yeere he might choose out Frie of equall bignesse: out of the which Pondes he neuer tooke Frie vnder three yeeres grouth, nor aboue foure yeeres: because then they be more delectable and dayntie, when they be of foure or fiue yeeres grouth: for vnder foure yeeres, his flesh is more loose, and aboue fiue, he beginneth to be tough and vnsauerie. And yet notwithstanding all this choyce, my M. Stanislaus is not contented, for he euery Autumne causeth his Pondes to be fyshed ouer, and all the Winter season the water to be let out: so that they recouering the force which they lost through ỹ Sommer moysture, might in the Spring time be more pleasant and sauery to the Carpes. But if you haue not plentie of Fish, this yeerely fyshyng is nothing profitable for you: but and if you haue moe breeding Pondes in your ground then one, then deuiding them into partes, and fyshing the one halfe one yeere, and the other halfe the other yeere, you may haue a yeerely rent of them.

Of

Of selling Carpes. Cap. 7.

THe Carpes which are solde immediately after their takyng out of Pondes are better, and for more money solde, then those which are translated and taken out of the store-pondes, being there long kept: for as the bodyes of the one being both safe and sounde, do better please the buyer; so the bodyes of the other being impayred and diminished by reason of their captiuitie, are solde for lesse money. And there is nothing more easie then to sell Fyshe, if a chapman be at hand, for we neither vse any new kinde of custome in sellyng of Fyshe, neither yet auowe or assure the health or goodnesse of them, because Fish are very seldome sicke, and euery man also may by their taste either like or misslike: but otherwise it is betweene the Bohemians and Morauians, for they do make a difference in sellyng their Carpes: For the one of them selleth by measure, settyng on euery measure his price: the other sell by number, that is to say, by the number of. 60. together, affyrming that, the better and more indifferent way, then that other of the Bohemians, because number is alwayes certaine, and so is not measure: for according to the bignes and littlenes of the Carpes, the measure contayneth moe and fewer Carpes. The Morauians sell. 60. of the biggest Carpes for eight Crownes, and. 60. of the least for halfe a Crowne, diminishing and increasing their price, as the situation of the Countrey requireth: for in that part of Morauia, which pertayneth to the higher Hongary, where now is Austria, Carpes are solde for twise as muche as they are in that part which belongeth vnto the Slesians. And surely that way which the Slesians vse in sellyng Carpes, in separating the greatest by them selues, the lesser

by them ſelues, and the leaſt of all by them ſelues, lyketh me beſt of all. For it is an olde prouerbe, Concorde breedeth no Warre, but diſcorde kindleth the Fire: For the buyer beholding the equalitie of the Carpes in bigneſſe and goodneſſe, will ſoone, and without much contention, make his bargaine: but and if they be vnequall, and the leſſe mingled with the greater, then he will fall foorth and be at contention, poynting with his finger to the leaſt, diſſembling the bigger, affirming how therefore of right and duetie they ought to be ſolde for leſſe money: contrariwiſe, the ſeller poynteth to the bigger, and therfore worthy of more money. In this poynt therefore the Bohemians agree. The Morauians and Sleſitans though they ſell their Pikes not by meaſure, but by number alſo of. 60. yet they ſell all their ſmall Fiſh rather by meaſure then by number: becauſe it is more laborious to tell out ſo great a multitude. And for as much as many men doe maruell, that the more plentie of Pondes there be, the dearer Fiſh be, good opportunitie now offered, I will ſhew the reaſon and occaſion thereof.

Why the moe Pondes there bee, the dearer is the Fish. Cap. 8.

THere be two cauſes: one is long of our Countrey men, the other of Strangers: and both theſe cauſes we muſt needes confeſſe, ſpringeth of our daintie deſire, which as it is vnſatiable, ſo it ſpareth no coſtes. And the dayntineſſe of Carpes had in great eſtimation is ſo well knowen to Barbours and bleare eyde fellowes, that they will neuer make any coſtly meale without Carpe. I will let paſſe, and ſpeake nothing of the cheeſe of

of the people, who all togither haue them at their suppers, at diuers breakfastes, and other meales. With like intemperaunce, the common sort of people vse to adorne their tables as often as they may be had. The Countrey folkes take example, and learne of the Citicens to doe the like, but especially when they assemble in great Townes or Villagies at Fayres: for from thence they will not depart into the Countrey, vntill they haue satiated them selues with deare bought Carpe, supposing the dearer it is bought, the better it is: for so doth Martiall faigne a Countrey birde to sing:

Though I a countrey Pœrtridge am, and bredde in countrey feelde,
Yet if my countrey flesh in taste, like sweetnes seemes to yeelde:
Then common prouerbe olde and true, shall then performed bee,
The dearer bought the Pœrtridge is, the better taste hath shee.

Now seeing I haue shewed you the causes why at home amongst our selues there is such an intemperate and greedy desire of Carpes in all sortes of people, it is no maruell though the greedinesse enhaunce dayly the price thereof. The other cause, which commeth of Strangers, is because all the Inne-holders almost in high Germany, do not onely come and buy our Carpes, but doe also adiudge and esteeme them as the dayntiest Fish: And for a proofe hereof, I will shew you an example. Of late I tooke my lodging in a Towne neare vnto the Alpes called Aenipontus, and desired mine Hoast to prepare Troutes to my supper. Mine Hoast answered againe, Sir, if you loue Fish well, I will shew you a better and a sweeter Fish then is a Troute, and withthat without any delay he brought me Carpes, not long before brought out of Bohemia, praysing and extolling them to the vttermost: sometimes comparing them to the Carpes bredde in the lake Garde, and sometimes with Salmons of the Rheyne. I was well contented, and willingly gaue eare to heare my Countrey so praysed: yet notwithstanding, I desired him to keepe them vntyll the next morrowe for my breakfast, and to dresse for my supper Troutes. Mine Hoast

did so, and the next morning calling for a reckoning, he setteth a higher price on the Carpes then on the Troutes: which thing when I perceyued, I sayd vnto my companions, Let vs from hence fourth leaue marueyling why the price of Carpes is inhaunsed, seeing they be esteemed among Strangers better then Troutes be. And we will heere leaue off to speake any more of new Pondes, and will fall to intreating how to renew olde Pondes.

How to renew olde Pondes. Cap. 9.

THe continuall standing of water in Pondes, maketh them before their time, to be old: and then you shall perceiue they be olde, when as they be not able to nourish Fish, because they haue lost the strength, the plentifulnesse, and fatnesse of the earth through too much and continuall water. This often happeneth through our owne folley: for whylest wee bende all our entent to gayne, wee loode our Pondes with ouer much water, forgetting what Virgill commaundeth the Husbandmen to do, when he sayth,

Thy reaped landes let fallow lie,
till that one yeere be come and gon:
And let thy feelde be parched drie,
from all the filthes that growes there on.

This precept and rule belongeth as well to Fish-maisters as to Husbandmen: for Pondes must be renewed & refreshed by hauing no moysture in them, as Feelds are by lying fallow and vntylled. This intermission and dryying of Pondes, is most commonly vsed after eight or nine yeeres, that is to say, after foure or fiue lawfull fishinges: a lawfull fyshing I call euery seconde yeeres fyshing. And this ceassing and dryying of the Pondes, must no longer continue then one yeere:

yeere: duering all which yeere, some profite may also come thereof: for though the Pondes bottomes lye dry without water, yet you may sowe them with Corne, and vse the crop thereof. And agayne, after one Sommer be past, fyshe them, if your Carpe there put in, be of three yeeres growth. But and if your Pondes be very olde, so that they lacke force to nourishe, and therefore are vnfruitfull, then one yeeres drynesse is not sufficient, but the seconde and thyrde yeere must be added to renew his force agayne, and then in the fyrst yeere you must but lightly eare vp the earth, throughly douge it, and lastly sowe it with such seede as will easely spring vp in barren grounde. Of this sort is Mullet seede, and Lupines seede, which all sometimes serue for doung, as often as it is ploughed together therwith. The seconde yeere you may sow it with seede of more strength, and the thirde yeere with the strongest seede of all, and vse the crop if you list. And thus you may see how no yeere is without his profite, vntill such time as it is apt agayne for fyshing. I haue for myne Author a worthy Knight, alowable both for his long vsage, and great experience, who affirmeth, that no seede is better to fatte Pondes withall, then is the seede of Poppy or Thesboull, if that it be suffered after it be ripe there to lie, vntill such tyme as the seede falles out of the coddes. But whylest I intreate of these other matters, Troutes are longer left vnspoken of, then their worthynesse requireth.

Of

Of Pondes for Troutes. Cap. 10.

According to the minde of Ausonius, I doe call Saler that Fish which cõmonly is called *Trutta*, a Troute. Ausonius in his Booke *de Mosella*, paynteth the Troute in his cullers after this sort:

The purple Troute on euery side,
Hath starrish strakes along to glide.

And thus much he sayth, to make a difference betweene Troutes, because there is an other Troute which hath also in his side litle starres as an ensigne or token of his nobilitie: but they be somewhat blackish, which you Germanes do call Aeschinus. Both these kindes are called Salares, Troutes, *a saltatu*, of leaping, because in swift Riuers they leape on high: but in especiall the purple Troute, which easely will leape ouer high hedges or dammes: and yet notwithstanding he will willingly abide to be shut vp and kept in some Ponde, when as the other with blackish starres, is most impatient of any inclosing, and dyeth as soone as he is taken out of his water. For this first kinde therefore of Troute our chiefe Fish-maisters haue of late begunne to make Pondes, not to the intent to make any gayne of them, but rather to preserue and keepe them for dayntinesse and for great banquettes. And the manner how to make these Pondes in length, breadth, and other thinges pertayning thereunto, is almost none other then such as we a litle before haue layd of Store-pondes, sauing that they must be digged deeper: for the deeper the Pondes be with water, the longer the bottome abides harde and stiffe, which to Troutes is most acceptable. And as they desire

cleere

cleere and puer water, so they also desire colde water, and a sandy and grauell bottome: but and if the ground wherein you make your Ponde be not such, then bring from some place some grauell & sand, and strow the bottome therewith. The banckes also of the Pondes must be fensed about with Flint, not onely because the earth may thereby be letted from falling downe, but also that the Troutes may haue their lurking holes, in the which they may hide them selues all the heate of the day, and in all tempestes. And therefore we commonly make our fenses full of chinkes, onely fastoned with greene Mosse, that by the rarenes of the holes, and by the greennes of the Mosse, like libertie may be graunted vnto Troutes to turne in their lurking holes, as they haue in the banckes of Riuers, in the which (where as libertie is graunted) they may freely & easely turne them selues in. The water of the Pondes must alwayes be running, because the standing of the water doth more hinder the Troutes, then the Mosse and Grauel do profite them. Also the heate of the Sommer is very hurtfull for them, and therefore some do set Trees about their Pondes to shadow them. Some againe do keepe in these Pondes the Ice, which all the Sommer season they weare wont to keepe in Pittes to coole their drinke withall. They also throw foode and sustenaunce into the Pondes to relieue their hunger, one els, would deuoure an other. The best meate for them is Carpes frie, or fatte of Trees, or riuer Hearing: for such as be fedde with Liuer cut in small peeces, or with any other flesh, haue an ill smacke and taste. A better compact, and more commodious ordering of these Pondes can not be founde, then that which is inuented of the gouernours of Pernsteyne, not farre from the Castle Pardubicia. These Pondes are there deuided into three partes, and Troutes are also deuided into three sortes: in the first Ponde are put the biggest Troutes, appointed for the Table: in the seconde, the middle sort: and in the thirde,

the least of all, because these both last rehearsed, may serue to supply the roome of the other: so that by this meanes, there may be alwayes a certaine number in euery Ponde, and euer as one is taken out, an other may be put in.

If this my labour be taken in thankfull part, I minde (God willing) to make you partaker of three other Bookes, incident hereunto: which is, Planting, Graffing, and Gardning. The vertue and commodities of Wine, Perrie, and Sider. The commoditie of Bees and Metheglin. &c.

FINIS.

A Table of the Chapters of this Booke, and euery thing in them conteyned.

The Chapters of the. 1. Booke.

1 Of Pondes, and their kindes. Fol. 1
2 Of the woorthineſſe of our Countrey Pondes, 1
3 Of the pofite that commeteh by Pondes, 3
4 Of the antiquitie and beginning of Pondes, 3
5 Of the Carpe. 4
6 Of the Pike. 5
7 Of the names of other Fiſh which of their owne accorde come into Pondes, 6

The Chapters of the. 2. Booke.

1 Of the ſituation, place, and making of Pondes, Fol. 8
2 Of leueling the water, and inſtruments for the ſame. 8
3 The proportion and forme of the trench or ponde. 9
4 The foundation of the pond, and banckes, & head. 10
5 How to meaſure pondes, and let them out to make, 11
6 Of incloſing about of the ponde. 12
7 What matter is fitteſt to compaſſe the ponde, 12
8 Of the Gutter, Fenſing, and Sluſe, 13

The Chapters of the 3. Booke.

1 Of conueying water into pondes. Fol. 14
2 How water may be let into new pondes. 15
3 The time to put Carpes frie into pondes, two melters to a ſpawner. 15
4 What thinges are to be obſerued in chooſing of Frie before they be put into Pondes. 16
5 What number of Carpes a ponde may containe. 17
6 A thriftie Houſholder ought to haue his breeding pondes at home in his owne yarde. 18
7 Of the ſituation of the breeding pondes. 18
8 Of the three folde pondes. 19
9 How Carpes and Pikes do engender both a like, 19

10 Whether the Carpe doth ſpaune once in pondes, or oftner, as in the Sea? 20
11 The moſt conuenient time to put Pikes into pondes 21
12 Certaine opinions of the voluntarie breeding of Pikes in pondes. 21

The Chapters of the. 4. Booke.

1 The ductie and office of a ponde Keeper. 23
2 Of the Spring time what then is to be done. 24
3 What is to be done in the Sommer ſeaſon. 24
4 Of foode for Carpes. 25
5 How to deſtroy Reedes. 25
6 Of the diſeaſes in Carpes. 26
7 What is to be done in Autumne. 27
8 What to be done in Winter. 27

The Chapters of the. 5. Booke.

1 Of the times of fiſhing, and the inſtrumentes pertayning to the ſame. 29
2 How to take Carpes and Pikes. 29
3 Of Store pondes. 30
4 How to take Fiſh in pondes that be frozened. 31
5 Why in ſome ponds Carpes do better grow then in other ſome, & that ſometime too, both in one pond? 32
6 How often times pondes muſt be fiſhed? whether twiſe in one yeere, or once in two yeere. 33
7 Of ſelling of Carpes. 34
8 Why the moe pondes there be, the dearer is the fiſh? 34
9 How to renew olde Pondes. 35
10 Of Pondes for Troutes. 36

FINIS.